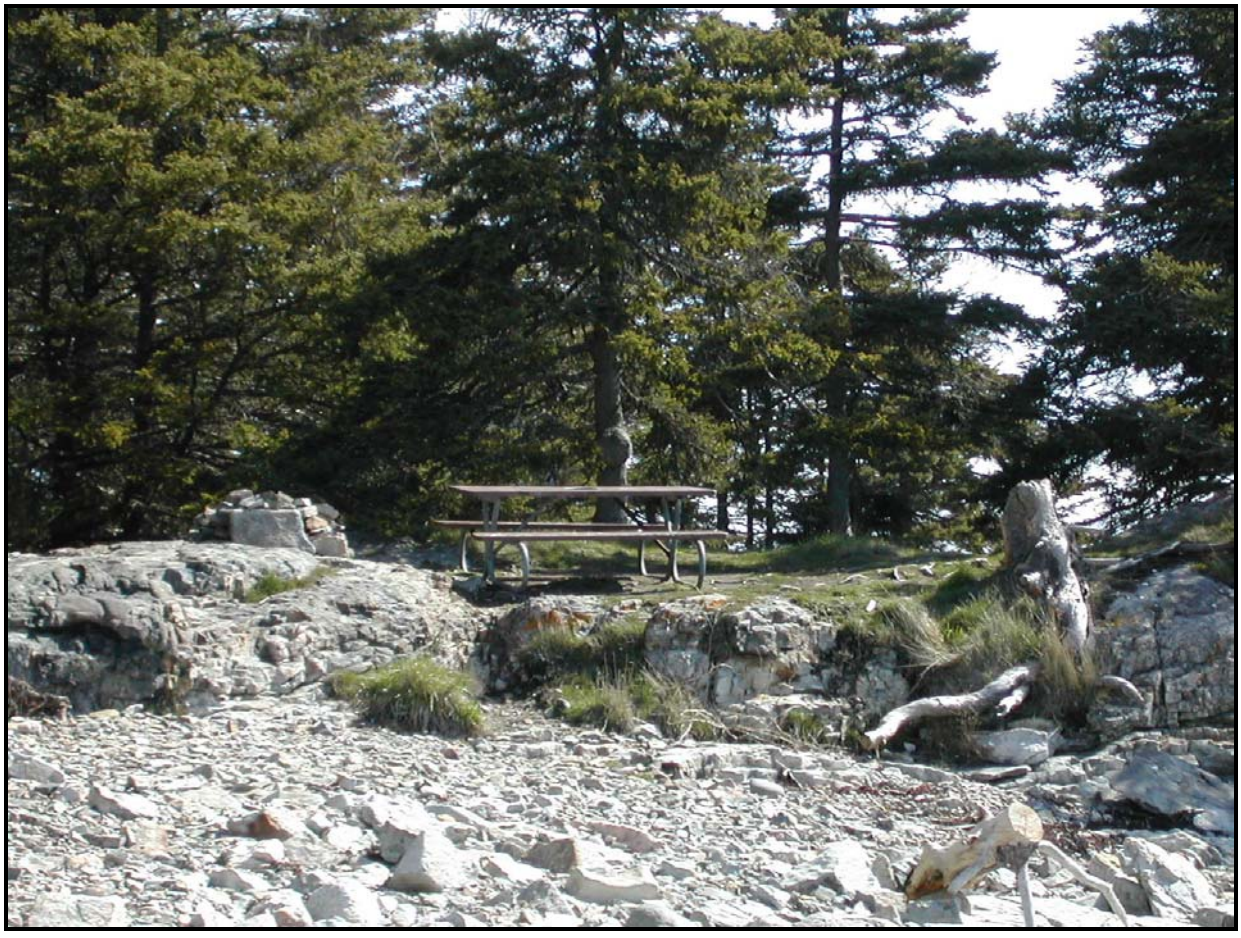
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Acadia National Park
Maine

Seawall Campground and Picnic Area Rehabilitation

Environmental Assessment



Please Note: Figures and Maps in this document are links which will need to be viewed and printed separately. Use the hand tool to view.

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Environmental Assessment
Seawall Campground and Picnic Area Rehabilitation

Acadia National Park
Southwest Harbor, Maine
December 2, 2002

Proposed Action:
The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to rehabilitate Seawall Campground and Seawall Picnic Area at Acadia National Park to improve visitor experiences at the park, rehabilitate historic structures and the cultural landscape, protect natural resources, and to assure that these facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. In addition, the NPS proposes to modify policies relative to the size of recreational vehicles, use of generators, and collecting firewood at Seawall Campground.

For Further Information Contact: Judy Hazen Connery
Acadia National Park
P.O. Box 177
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609-0177
(207) 288-5463

Note to Reviewers and Respondents:
If you wish to comment on the Environmental Assessment, you may mail comments by December 31, 2002 to the name and address below. Please note that names and addresses of people who comment become part of the public record. If you wish for us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will make all submissions from organizations, businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety.

Superintendent
Acadia National Park
P.O. Box 177
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609-0177

Comments submitted via electronic mail may be addressed to judy_hazen_connery@nps.gov by December 31, 2002.

Summary

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to rehabilitate Seawall Campground and Seawall Picnic Area at Acadia National Park to improve visitor experiences at the park, rehabilitate historic structures and the cultural landscape, protect natural resources, and to assure that these facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. In addition, the NPS proposes to modify policies relative to the size of recreational vehicles, use of generators, and collecting firewood at Seawall Campground.

Seawall Campground is one of only three overnight camping facilities within the park and serves approximately 80,000 visitors a year. State Route 102A provides access to the campground and picnic area, which are close to restaurants, museums, and shops in the Town of Southwest Harbor and to historic Bass Harbor lighthouse. The campground occupies approximately 120 acres and provides facilities for recreational vehicles (RVs), small camping trailers, and tents. There are 213 individual sites, including 43 sites that can accommodate RVs, 66 sites for small trailers or tents with car access, and 104 walk-in tent sites. There are five group camping sites available to organized, non-profit groups.

Seawall Picnic Area, on the south side of Route 102A along the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, has 20 rustic picnic sites, including one handicapped-accessible site, that serve day users. Park visitors and local residents use Seawall Picnic Area year-round, although the comfort station is closed October through April.

To address existing deficiencies and improve the deteriorated condition of Seawall Campground and Picnic Area, as well as restore the original rustic design style of the facilities and landscape, the principal purposes of the proposed action are to:

- Upgrade facilities, utilities, drainage, and roadways, as well as correct deficiencies in accessibility for disabled visitors, to achieve the goals of the *Acadia National Park General Management Plan* (NPS 1992).
- Rehabilitate historic features at Seawall Campground by implementing treatment recommendations identified in the *Cultural Landscape Report for Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds* (Foulds 1996), in particular by rehabilitating two comfort station buildings, rehabilitating campsites, and implementing a revegetation plan.
- Improve visitor experiences by increasing privacy between campsites, reducing interactions between nuisance animals and visitors, reducing conflicts between campers, and maintaining a safe camping environment.

This EA considers four alternatives for Seawall Campground and Picnic Area Rehabilitation:

- Alternative A – No Action
- Alternative B – Minimal Campground Rehabilitation
- Alternative C – Campground Upgrade (NPS Preferred Alternative)
- Alternative D – Campground Modernization

Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, would not meet the goals of the project and is included for the purposes of comparing the effects of other the alternatives.

Alternative B would include rehabilitating and replacing structures, campsites, utilities, and drainage at Seawall Campground, and improving universal accessibility at Seawall Picnic Area. All existing park policies would continue, and no new facilities or amenities would be added to the site. To accommodate construction in the shoulder seasons and offseason, the campground would be closed until July 4th and would close again immediately after Labor Day during one season. The picnic area comfort station would be replaced and two picnic sites would be made universally accessible. The cost for Alternative B would be approximately $3,340,815, including $222,000 for the picnic area (in 2002 dollars).

Alternative C is the NPS's preferred alternative. Alternative C would include all rehabilitation elements described in Alternative B, as well as improvements to the roadways. RV length would be limited to 35 feet, and width would be limited to not more than 12 feet. Firewood collection would be banned within the campground, but allowed in other areas of the park within 100 feet of roadways. Generator use would be completely banned. Construction would take place from September through June of one year, during which Seawall Campground would be temporarily closed. Loops A, C, D, and the group camping areas would remain open during July and August, but Loop B would be closed throughout one entire camping season so that road repairs could be completed. The picnic area would remain open year-round, although the comfort station (#182) would be closed from October through June so that construction could be completed. Alternative C would cost approximately $4,110,000, including $222,000 for the picnic area (in 2002 dollars).

Alternative D would include all the rehabilitation elements listed for Alternatives B and C (Figures 5-13) but would also include additional elements to modernize services. The campground would provide designated dishwashing stations in each loop with hot running water. Hot and cold running water and showers would be added at new and rehabilitated comfort stations. This would require installing water heaters and insulated water lines. Electric hookups would be installed in Loop C to allow RVs to hook up to power, rather than operate on individual generators. Additional underground electric lines would be run to Loop C. RV length would be limited to 35 feet, but vehicles with slide-outs and/or awnings on both sides would be permitted (a maximum total width of approximately 15 feet). Firewood collection would be allowed within the campground, but banned elsewhere in the park. Under this alternative, the campground would be completely closed for the duration of the construction period, anticipated to run from Spring 2003 through late June 2004. The picnic area would remain open year-round, with the exception of the comfort station (#182), which would be closed from October through June for

construction. Alternative D would cost approximately $5,055,000, including $222,000 for the picnic area (in 2002 dollars).

Impact topics were chosen for evaluation based on the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations and NPS Director's Order 12, by assessing the issues raised during regulatory and other scoping meetings, and by observing the potentially affected resources at the project site. These resources include: soils; wetlands; vegetation; wildlife, and wildlife habitat; air quality; soundscape; landscapes and historic structures; visitor use and experience; and the socioeconomic environment.

The Environmentally Preferred Alternative is the NPS preferred alternative, Alternative C. Of the alternatives considered, Alternative C best satisfies the six NEPA goals. The following table summarizes the impacts of the alternatives considered.

Summary of Environmental Consequences

Resource	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Wetlands	No changes to wetlands or water resources.	No permanent wetland losses. Impacts would be negligible	No permanent wetland losses. Impacts would be negligible.	No permanent wetland losses. Impacts would be negligible.
Vegetation	Minor long-term adverse impacts result resulting from social trails and firewood collection.	Minor long-term beneficial effects as a result of revegetation plan, and banning firewood collecting	Minor long-term beneficial effects as a result of revegetation plan and banning firewood collecting	Minor long-term beneficial effects as a result of revegetation plan.
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	No short-term or long-term impacts	Negligible short-term and long-term impacts	Negligible short-term and long-term impacts	Negligible short-term and long-term impacts
Air Quality	Minor negative short-term impacts from generator use.	Short-term minor adverse impact on campground air quality; negligible impact on regional air quality.	Short-term minor beneficial effect on campground air quality; negligible impact on regional air quality.	Short-term minor beneficial effect on campground air quality; negligible impact on regional air quality.
Soundscape	Minor long-term adverse impacts from generator use.	Minor long-term adverse impacts from generator use.	Minor long-term benefits from banning generator use.	Minor long-term benefits from decreased use of generators.
Cultural Resources	Moderate long-term adverse impacts from deteriorating structures and landscape.	Moderate long-term benefits to historic structures and cultural landscape.	Moderate long-term benefits to historic structures and cultural landscape.	Moderate long-term benefits to historic structures. Minor long-term adverse impact to cultural landscape from electric hook-ups.
Visitor Use and Experience	Minor long-term adverse effects due to deteriorating facilities.	Moderate long-term benefits to visitor experience from improvements. Short-term minor adverse impacts from construction and closure	Moderate long-term benefits to visitor experience from improvements. Short-term minor adverse impacts from construction and closure	Moderate long-term benefits to visitor experience from improvements. Short-term moderate adverse impacts from construction and closure .
Socioeconomic Environment	No project-related short-term impacts.	Minor short-term adverse impact as a result of closing campground during shoulder seasons. Minor long-term beneficial effects to park and region.	Minor short-term adverse impact to park as a result of closing campground during shoulder seasons. Minor long-term beneficial effects to park and region.	Moderate short-term adverse impact to park as a result of closing the campground for an entire season. Minor long-term beneficial effects to park and region.

Contents

Figures

Photos

Tables

1 Introduction: Purpose & Need

1.1 Introduction

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to rehabilitate Seawall Campground and Seawall Picnic Area at Acadia National Park to improve visitor experiences at the park, rehabilitate historic structures and the cultural landscape, protect natural resources, and to assure that these facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. In addition, the NPS proposes to modify policies relative to the size of recreational vehicles, use of generators, and collecting firewood at Seawall Campground.

Serving approximately 80,000 campers per year, Seawall Campground is one of only three overnight facilities within Acadia National Park and one of two park campgrounds on Mount Desert Island. State Route 102A provides access to the campground and picnic area, which are close to restaurants, museums, and shops in the Town of Southwest Harbor and to historic Bass Harbor lighthouse. The campground occupies approximately 120 acres and provides facilities for recreational vehicles (RVs), small camping trailers, and tents. There are 213 individual sites, including 43 sites that can accommodate RVs, 66 sites for small trailers or tents with car access, and 104 walk-in tent sites. There are five group camping sites available to organized, non-profit groups. The campground offers a rustic camping experience, having neither modern amenities nor facilities for luxury recreational vehicles greater than 35 feet in length. A number of private campgrounds outside of the park, however, do offer these facilities. Much of Seawall Campground was designed and constructed in accordance with early NPS and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) guidelines and has been recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NPS 1996) because it retains many original rustic characteristics.

This environmental assessment (EA) analyzes alternative treatments of the campground and picnic area and their impacts on the environment. It has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9), and *NPS Director's Order 12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making*.

1.2 Project Background

1.2.1 History and Significance of the Park

Acadia National Park is located in the mid-coast region of Maine, approximately 45 miles southeast of Bangor (Figure 1). Archeological evidence suggests Native Americans occupied Mount Desert Island at least seasonally for several thousand years prior to the arrival of Europeans. European settlement of the area dates to the early 17th century, when French explorers and missionaries landed at Mount Desert Island. By the mid-18th century, the British had taken control of the area, and Maine remained part of Massachusetts until 1820. In the late-1800s, Mount Desert Island became a destination for tourists, popularized by the paintings and stories of the "rusticators," artists and journalists who glorified the rustic beauty of the Island. The hiking trails used by park visitors today were started by the rusticators and local village improvement societies, and represent one of the earliest recreational trail systems developed in the United States. As word of the island's appeal spread, Mount Desert Island evolved into a favorite summer retreat.

To preserve the natural landscape of the Island from growing development, a group of local citizens led by Charles W. Eliot and George Dorr established the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, acquired 5,000 acres on Mount Desert Island, and offered the land to the federal government. In 1916, President Wilson announced the creation of Sieur de Monts National Monument, which in 1919 became Lafayette National Park, the first national park east of the Mississippi River. In 1929, the park name changed to Acadia National Park. Today, Acadia National Park encompasses approximately 35,000 acres on Mount Desert Island, Schoodic Peninsula, and surrounding islands.

Acadia National Park provides resource-based, nonconsumptive recreation and education for an increasingly urban population in the northeast. A recreation resource of national and international significance, the park is within a 12-hour drive of 25 percent of the North American population. With only 6 percent of the Maine coast accessible to the public, and one-quarter of that acreage in Acadia, the park is one of the most intensively used leisure destination in the northeastern United States (NPS 1992).

1.2.2 Seawall Campground and Picnic Area

Seawall Campground and Seawall Picnic Area are located in the southwest section of Mount Desert Island, in the Town of Southwest Harbor (Figure 2). The 1927 master plan for Acadia, by Thomas Vint and Arno Cammerer, recommended development that would later be initiated during the Roosevelt administration's New Deal programs, including construction of campgrounds and picnic areas. Beginning in 1934, the federal government established Recreational Demonstration Projects (RDP) to develop sub-marginal, unproductive agricultural land for recreation purposes. Constructed using Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor, Seawall Campground was developed and funded as an RDP project. Facilities constructed from 1937 to 1939 consisted of two loops (Loops A and B) with 63 campsites, comfort stations, fireplaces, and picnic tables. World War II resulted in a temporary reduction in visitation to

Figure 1

Acadia National Park - Regional Context
Fig.1 Link/Download (204KB)

Figure 2

Project Location
Fig. 2 Link/Download (164KB)

Acadia National Park and a delay in park development projects; however, in the early 1940s a trailer loop (Loop C), comfort station, and a check-in/ranger station were added to Seawall Campground (Figure 3).

The design of Seawall Campground and its structures are representative of the NPS rustic design style. The intent of the rustic design style was twofold: to protect the scenic qualities of significant landscapes, and to provide new design and development that was compatible with the qualities of the natural environment. The style developed throughout the park system in the 1920s and reached its apex during the New Deal, incorporating local materials, such as stone and timber, in the construction of rugged, frontier-like structures appropriate to the wilderness setting (Meier and Terzis 2001). Specific examples of the rustic style at Seawall Campground include the ranger residence (1941), check-in station (1939), pumphouse (1938), four rustic comfort stations (#102, 103, 104, and 105), and granite block fireplaces.

The Mission 66 program was developed by the NPS in 1954 to upgrade facilities, staffing, and resource management in preparation for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service in 1966. Funding made available under the program allowed for acquisition of an in-holding area within the campground in 1959, which eventually developed into a loop for walk-in campers (Loop D). Along with this loop, the group camping area (Loop G), five comfort stations (#178, 179, 180, 181, 182), and an amphitheater were constructed. The modern architecture of these later comfort stations contrasted sharply in style and materials with the earlier rustic style of the rest of the campground.

Seawall Campground consists of four defined campground loops (A, B, C, and D), and a group camping area (Loop G) (Figure 3). Loops A and B, at the southern end of the campground, are available to car and tent campers but can also accommodate small camping trailers. There are 38 campsites in Loop A and 28 sites in Loop B. Loop C, at the north end of the campground contains 43 campsites and is available primarily to campers with larger trailers and self-contained recreational vehicles (RVs) 35 feet long or less. No utility hook-ups are currently available in the campground. Loop D, just north of Loop A and west of the main campground drive, is a walk-in campground loop with parking at its center and 104 numbered campsites. The group camping area (Loop G), at the north end of the campground, consists of five large sites occupying a cleared area formerly used as an athletic playing field. There are approximately three and a half miles of paved roads in Seawall Campground and Picnic Area including the main campground road.

Seawall Campground is open from late May to the end of September and employs nine park staff seasonally, as well as additional part time park laborers and interpretive staff. The campground does not accept reservations, and campsites are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The campground is generally full from late June to late August, with less visitor use in the “shoulder seasons” of May-June and late August-September.

Seawall Picnic Area, on the south side of Route 102A along the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, has 20 rustic picnic sites, including one handicapped-accessible site, that primarily serve day users. Some sites contain a picnic table, grill, and steel ring fireplace. Park visitors and local residents use Seawall Picnic Area year-round, although the comfort station is closed October through April.

1.2.3 Plans & Policies Outlining Management Goals

NPS Management Policies

The *2001 NPS Management Policies* (Chapter 9) provides policies applicable to the management of the national park system, including policies pertaining to accessibility for persons with disabilities, construction sites and revegetation, and campgrounds. Specific elements of these policies considered in this EA include:

- Providing universal accessibility consistent with preserving park resources, visitor safety, and a high-quality visitor experience; designing, constructing, and operating all buildings and facilities so they are accessible to, and usable by, persons with disabilities to the greatest extent reasonable; ensuring all new and altered buildings are in conformance with the appropriate design standards.
- Limiting construction sites to the smallest feasible area; controlling ground disturbance to prevent undue damage to vegetation, soils and archeological resources; and minimizing air, water, soil and noise pollution.
- Planting species that are native to the park or historically appropriate for the period or event; imported soils must be compatible with existing soils and free of undesired seeds and organisms.

Section 9.3.2.1 specifically describes NPS policies regarding campground management:

> "When campgrounds are determined to be necessary, their design will accommodate the differences between recreation-vehicle camping and tent camping, and will consider cultural landscapes, terrain, soils, vegetation, wildlife, climate, special needs of users, visual and auditory privacy, and other relevant factors.
>
> The Park Service generally will not provide a full range of amenities and utility hookups. Portable generators may be allowed, but they may also be limited to designated areas and times. To eliminate the need for generators, electric utilities may be provided on a limited basis. Shower facilities may be provided where feasible. Modest-sized play areas for small children are permissible, as are informal areas for field sports associated with organized group camps. Wood fires in fire rings are generally permissible; however, whenever it is necessary to restrict such fires at individual campsites because of fire danger air pollution, or other hazards, alternatives may be provided or allowed, such as facilities for the use of charcoal or other fuels, or central cook sheds. When a need exists, sanitary dump stations will be provided in or near campgrounds that accommodate recreation vehicles.
>
> When necessary for basic safety requirements, pathways and the exteriors of buildings and structures may be lighted. Such lighting will be energy efficient and shielded as much as possible to preserve the natural dark.

Figure 3

Seawall Campground
Fig. 3 Link/Download (754KB)

> Campgrounds intended to accommodate large recreation vehicles or buses will be located only where existing roads can safely accommodate such vehicles and the resulting increased traffic load.
>
> Campgrounds will not exceed 250 sites unless a larger number of sites has been approved by the Director.
>
> When desirable for the purposes of management, tent camping may be accommodated in separate campgrounds, or in separately designated areas within campgrounds. Provision may also be made for accommodating organized groups in separate campgrounds, or in separately designated areas."

Section 8.8 of the Management Policies describes NPS policies on natural resource collection with parks, including firewood:

> "While campfires are a traditional element of camping and the park experience, the gathering of firewood will be prohibited, except where subsistence use is authorized by federal law, or in specific areas designated by a superintendent in which dead and down wood may be collected for campfires or in small quantities for other uses within the park."

In addition, *Director's Order 42: Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities* (NPS 2000a) provides guidance and implementation strategies for achieving the goals of the management policies.

Acadia National Park General Management Plan

The park's mission is based on park legislation and the *Acadia National Park General Management Plan* (NPS 1992):

> "The National Park Service at Acadia National Park protects and preserves outstanding scenic, natural, scientific, and cultural values for present and future generations. These resources include a glaciated coastal and island landscape, biological diversity, clean air and water, and a rich cultural heritage. Acadia National Park also offers opportunities for high-quality non-consumptive recreation education, and scientific research."

This mission statement was formally adopted in the *Acadia National Park Strategic Management Plan* (NPS 1997), which identified three primary purposes for the park:

- To protect and conserve the land and water resources, the scenery, the natural and historic objects, the wildlife, and the wild character of the park.
- To promote and regulate the use of the park for the benefit and enjoyment of the public in such a manner and by such means as will leave park resources unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.
- To protect and preserve the scenic, ecological, historical, archeological, and cultural resources of the Acadian archipelago and to limit development of the islands and conserve their natural qualities and traditional resource-based land uses.

Statement for Management Planning Implementation Report

In addition to the General Management Plan (GMP), the *Statement for Management Planning Implementation Report* (NPS 1995), an implementing document for the General Management Plan, reiterated its goals, including maintaining the existing capacity of parking lots. The intent is to retain 1995 use levels, naturalness, and solitude in portions of the park, including at Seawall Campground and Picnic Area.

Acadia National Park Draft Campground Mission Statement

Acadia National Park staff has recently developed this draft campground mission statement. The mission statement will be revised and finalized based on public comments received on this document.

Portions of the campgrounds are cultural resources. Rehabilitation, maintenance, and operations shall preserve the significant historical features and rustic character. Visitors staying in the campgrounds should have a traditional Acadia camping experience relating to the goals of the park. This experience may be different than that obtained in commercial campgrounds and may be different than the initial expectations of the visitors. Aspects of this experience are:

- The sites and sounds of the campground shall be as natural as possible.
- Privacy between sites shall be maintained as much as possible using native vegetation and materials.
- "Contemplative recreational" experiences such as enjoying scenery, hiking, environmental education shall be encouraged over more active recreation such as participating in sports or touring by vehicle.
- Rehabilitation guidelines will encourage the use of small recreational vehicles (units less than 35 feet) and tents. Historic features and character will not be modified solely to accommodate larger recreational vehicles.
- Modern amenities such as showers and RV hookups will not necessarily be added to meet changes in equipment or to match facilities provided in private campgrounds.
- Educational opportunities in the campgrounds shall emphasize environmental education, resource protection, appropriate recreation, and environmental ethics.

Cultural Landscape Report for Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds

The *Cultural Landscape Report for Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds* (Foulds 1996) analyzed the existing conditions, assessed the historic significance and integrity of the resources at the campground, and developed guidelines for their treatment. Specific findings and recommendations of the *Cultural Landscape Report* (CLR) are discussed in Section 3.3 “Cultural Resources” of this document.

1.3 Purpose and Need for Action

To address existing deficiencies and improve the deteriorated condition of the Seawall Campground and Picnic Area, as well as restore the original NPS rustic design style of the facilities and landscape, the principal purposes of the proposed action are to:

- Upgrade facilities, utilities, drainage, and roadways, as well as correct deficiencies in accessibility for disabled visitors, to achieve the goals of the *Acadia National Park General Management Plan* (NPS 1992).

- Rehabilitate historic features at Seawall Campground by implementing treatment recommendations identified in the *Cultural Landscape Report for Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds* (Foulds 1996), in particular by rehabilitating two comfort station buildings, rehabilitating campsites, and implementing a revegetation plan.

- Improve visitor experiences by increasing privacy between campsites, reducing interactions between nuisance animals and visitors, reducing conflicts between campers, and maintaining a safe camping environment.

Although Seawall Campground is one of the most intact elements of the 1927 Acadia Master Plan (Meier and Terzis 2001), several contributing resources to the cultural landscape at Seawall Campground have deteriorated over time, including some campsites (Loops A, B, and C), the road system, the pumphouse and water tower, and the historic comfort stations (#102, 103, 104, and 105). Few of the original granite fireplaces dating from the late 1930s are intact. The campsites have become uneven, and original stone barriers have been removed so that campsites lack definition. This contributes to expanding campsite areas and loss of vegetation around the edge of the camping area. Further, deterioration and/or modernization of site furnishings has resulted in a change in the rustic character of most individual campsite units (Foulds 1996).

Today, Seawall Campground has eight comfort stations: two in Loop A, one in Loop B, two in Loop C, and three in Loop D. Because the campground was designed and constructed before implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, none of the facilities at Seawall Campground or Picnic Area were originally constructed to accommodate handicapped visitors. Four of the comfort stations (#102, 103, 178, 179) at the campground were rehabilitated and made accessible between 1997 and 2000 and are therefore not included in this project (Photo 1). Two comfort stations (#180 and #181), which remain from the mid 1960s, were built with patterned concrete masonry and are structurally unsound because the foundations have cracked (Photo 2). Comfort stations #104 and #105 remain from the originally designed campground of the 1930s, but have deteriorated structurally. The comfort station at Seawall Picnic Area (#182), constructed of concrete blocks, is also in poor condition.

Over time, the utilities, drainage, and roadways at Seawall Campground have deteriorated and need replacing. The drainage system is an especially important component of campground infrastructure at Acadia where high average annual precipitation (55 inches per year, Kahl et al. 2000) contributes to a

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Seawall Campground
Comfort Station in Loop A
Photo 1

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Seawall Picnic Area – Comfort Station #182
Photo 2

continuous drainage problem in many areas. Roadside drainage swales have filled in or have completely failed, and culverts in some locations have collapsed or are inadequate to convey flows. Campsite flooding is another result of the improperly functioning drainage system. Standing water adjacent to the older, historical comfort stations (#104 and #105) has accelerated deterioration and destabilized foundations. Many campsites, particularly in Loop B, are frequently wet or have standing water because of soil compaction and poor drainage.

The septic field for the campground was rehabilitated in 2001 in order to eliminate the discharge of treated effluent into the Atlantic Ocean and make the system safer for maintenance staff. Despite the complete renovation of the system, the overboard discharge into the ocean has not been eliminated because an estimated 10,000 gallons of water is infiltrating the sewage pipes in the campground each day. This unexpected infiltration would overload the new system and cause it to fail. The new septic field cannot be used until sewage pipes in the campground are replaced.

The campground road system suffers from severe frost heave in some locations due to a lack of sufficient drainage. This is compounded by the fact that the roads were not originally built to withstand the weight of vehicles that now enter the campground. The road system is in need of structural repairs and resurfacing to maintain a safe and durable road surface. These roads exhibit varying degrees of deterioration depending on the underlying soils, local drainage conditions, and thickness of base material.

In addition to the formal road and path system, a secondary system of "social paths" has been created by campground users and contributes to the loss of vegetation and reduction in privacy between campsites (Photo 3). These "social paths" are generally surfaced only with forest litter or bare soil, but some heavily traveled routes such as paths to the comfort stations, have been surfaced with wood chips. The paths become wider when conditions are wet as campers avoid muddy spots and puddles. Further, parking areas at the campsites are poorly defined, and visitors frequently park on grass or other vegetation. Although current park regulations limit parking at each site to one vehicle, some visitors arrive with an oversized vehicle or second car and attempt to park both vehicles at one campsite. This is controlled by park campground staff. Recreational vehicles with awnings or pull-out slides also cause damage to vegetation along roadways and campsites if they are too wide. Heavy campground use, particularly during the increasingly popular shoulder seasons, has also resulted in the loss of young trees and other vegetation (Photo 4).

Because campers are allowed to collect downed, dead wood for campfires, there are few, decomposing tree trunks, branches, or twigs in the immediate vicinity of the campsites. The absence of decomposing wood reduces available habitat for mosses and lichens, insects, some reptiles and amphibians, and reduces the amount of organic matter and nutrients returned to forest soils.

The underground portions of the electrical system are in poor condition, are unreliable, and require frequent maintenance. The existing water transport system, which consists of 2 to 4 inch galvanized piping, is in poor condition and needs replacing due to its shallow placement, inadequate size, and poor condition. The water storage tower has been identified as a hazard because its stability has been adversely affected by severe erosion around its supporting structure (Photo 5).

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Seawall Picnic Area -- Existing Paths
Photo 3

Seawall Campground
Sparse Vegetation
Photo 4

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Seawall Campground
Water Tower
Photo 5

The campground provides dishwater disposal facilities in only two restrooms in Loop D. In other areas, campers dispose of dishwater and food residue in natural areas adjacent to campsites, despite park attempts to educate visitors on proper sanitation. This food residue is not only unsightly, but also attracts animals such as raccoons and skunks, both of which can carry rabies and pose a risk to public health. Animals that become habituated to people and food at campsites may also bite visitors or damage camping equipment or vehicles in their search for food. The NPS is forced to trap and euthanize animals that become a nuisance to campground visitors. Campers also wash dishes at water spigots and clog soak-away drains.

Campers chose to stay at Seawall Campground for a variety of reasons, including the more rustic camping experience it offers compared to private campgrounds in the area. Loop C, however, is occupied primarily by visitors using RVs, and these visitors may use generators to supply power for appliances and lighting. Generator use is currently permitted between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Despite park regulations, some visitors operate generators outside of these hours, affecting the experience of other campers both in and out of Loop C.

1.4 Planning Issues and Concerns

The following issues have been identified from previous planning efforts, a workshop held at the park in October 2001, and field reconnaissance at the sites. Issues consider the effect of the alternatives on a natural, cultural, social, or economic resource and help determine potential impact topics.

Cultural Landscape and Historic Structures and Buildings. Seawall Campground meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a significant cultural landscape. Rehabilitating the campground and comfort stations could affect these resources and their setting.

Social Trails. Social trails reflect the patterns of use that have been in place for many years. These trails are often the most direct route that visitors use in satisfying the most basic requirements of obtaining water or using the comfort station. The privacy of many campsites is diminished by the existence of "social" trails that lead from other areas of the campground to facilities such as comfort stations or water taps. In some cases, these trails have been created through campsites by repeated foot traffic over the years. Other trails have developed in clearings for underground utility lines or abandoned road beds (Foulds 1996).

Use of Generators. The current policy on generator use restricts the ability of some visitors to use appliances in their RVs. Generator noise, even during the day, affects the natural sounds of the campground and disturbs other campers. Generator noise is a recurring conflict between user types. During periods of weather-related inversions, exhaust fumes can affect the air quality on and near sites where generators are being used.

Nuisance Wildlife. Food residue from dishwashing, direct feeding, and food left unattended at campsites attracts skunks and raccoons, both of which can carry rabies and pose a risk to public health. Animals that become habituated to people and food at campsites may also bite visitors or damage camping equipment or vehicles in their search for food. Because of the threat of moving rabid animals, state law prevents nuisance raccoons or skunks from being relocated. The NPS is forced to trap and euthanize animals that become a nuisance to campground visitors.

Firewood Collecting. Currently, dead and down wood may be collected for firewood by hand anywhere within Acadia National Park. This policy has become a problem in the campgrounds because visitors searching for firewood trample vegetation and coarse woody material has been removed from both Seawall and Blackwoods Campgrounds. Further, this policy is contrary to the recommendations of the *National Park Service Management Policies* (2000c), which states, "while campfires are a traditional element of camping and the park experience, the gathering of firewood will be prohibited." Firewood is sold by many private vendors in local communities.

Size of Equipment. The layout of campground roads and campsites limit the length of RVs that can be feasibly accommodated to 35 feet. With the increased use of pull-outs and awnings on RVs, width is becoming an important issue. RVs are on average 8.5 feet wide, with pull-outs of approximately 3.5 feet each. The total allowable camping vehicle width within the park should be established to guide site rehabilitation and to allow visitors to determine if their equipment will fit the sites.

Amenities. Park visitors have requested that the NPS provide more modern facilities, including hot water and showers, as well as electric hookups at campsites. However, these services are provided in local communities and in private campgrounds. Adding increased amenities could put the NPS in direct competition with local businesses.

Timing of Construction. Construction activities have the potential to affect visitor experiences, seasonal employment, and the local economy. Because the construction and camping seasons coincide, summer construction would temporarily require complete or partial campground closure, with potential noise and safety impacts to visitors and revenue losses to the NPS and to local businesses.

Public Safety and Access to Disabled Persons. Four comfort stations at the campground (#102, 103, 178, 179) have been recently renovated and are universally accessible. The remaining comfort stations in the campground and picnic area are not accessible to disabled persons. Several of the buildings are structurally unsound. A lack of food disposal areas leads to food debris attracting wildlife, which can carry rabies and pose a threat to public health.

1.5 Impact Topics

The following impact topics were chosen for evaluation based on the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations and NPS Director's Order 12, by assessing the issues raised during regulatory and other scoping meetings, and by observing the potentially affected resources at the project site. These

resources include: soils; wetlands; vegetation; wildlife, and wildlife habitat; air quality; soundscape; landscapes and historic structures; visitor use and experience; and the socioeconomic environment.

1.6 Impact Topics Considered but Dismissed from Further Analysis

The following topics are non-controversial, would not be affected by the proposed action, or would be affected negligibly, and were eliminated from further evaluation. They are briefly discussed below but will not be analyzed in detail in this document.

1.6.1 Archeology

An archeological survey of the campground and picnic area has been completed, and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has concurred that the proposed project will have no adverse effect on archeological resources within the area of potential effect (see correspondence in Appendix A).

1.6.2 Ethnographic Resources

Ethnographic resources are defined by the NPS as any "site, structure, object, landscape, or natural resource feature assigned traditional legendary, religious, subsistence, or other significance in the cultural system of a group traditionally associated with it" (*Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline*). Acadia National Park will be conducting ethnographic research in partnership with representatives of the Maine's American Indian groups over the next two years to identify ethnographic resources and places of religious or cultural importance within the park. These groups include the Passamaquoddy Tribe - Indian Township; Passamaquoddy Tribe – Pleasant Point; Penobscot Nation; Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians; and Aroostook Band of Micmacs.

Presently, there are no known ethnographic sites in the project area. Copies of the environmental assessment will be forwarded to each affiliated tribe for review and comment. If the tribes subsequently identify the presence of ethnographic resources, appropriate mitigation measures would be undertaken in consultation with the tribes. The location of ethnographic sites would not be made public. In the unlikely event that human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are discovered during construction, provisions outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 USC 3001) of 1990 would be followed.

1.6.3 Indian Trust Resources

The project area is not considered an Indian Trust Resource, and the proposed action does not conflict with known American Indian interests.

1.6.4 Floodplains

Seawall Campground and the majority of the picnic area are located within an area that is not subject to normal flooding from a 100-year flood (FEMA 1991). A portion of the picnic area along the coast is within a 100-year flood zone and coastal hazard area; however, the proposed rehabilitation would not require work in floodplains (Figure 4).

1.6.5 Prime or Unique Farmland

Prime or unique farmland is defined as soil that produce general crops such as common foods, forage, fiber, and oil seed; unique farmland produces specialty crops such as fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Although there are twelve soils that support prime farmland in the Hancock County area (NRCS 1998), the project area consists of Lyman-Scantic-Herman complex soils and these are not prime or unique farmland soils.

1.6.6 Geology

This project will not affect geologic resources of the park.

1.6.7 Wild and Scenic Rivers

No federal wild and/or scenic rivers are located within the project area.

1.6.8 Special Status Species

According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife (MDIFW), and information in National Park Service documents and files, at least 47 listed species of wildlife and two species proposed for federal listing inhabit Maine and adjacent waters. Only nine of these species, however, have been documented in or adjacent to the park. The project area has been highly disturbed and is subject to continuous activity throughout most of the year; therefore, based on the absence of suitable habitat and documented sightings, no special status species would be affected by the actions proposed in this EA. Furthermore, no Significant Wildlife Habitats, as defined and regulated by MDIFW, occur in the vicinity of the Seawall Campground and Picnic Area. No further action is required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see correspondence in Appendix A).

1.6.9 Environmental Justice

Federal agencies must implement actions to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies and activities on minority and low-income populations. The project is located within the boundaries of the Acadia National Park and would not cause the displacement of any residents, nor would it disproportionately affect low income or minority populations.

Figure 4

Floodplain and Flood Zone
Fig. 4 Link/Download (697KB)

2 Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

The project includes improving comfort stations, roads, utilities, and campsites at Seawall Campground, and the comfort station and two picnic sites at the picnic area. The project also must maintain the cultural landscape and rustic character of the campground while minimizing impacts to natural and cultural resources. Changes in campground management policies to protect natural and cultural resources and improve visitor experiences are also proposed.

This EA considers four alternatives for Seawall Campground and Picnic Area Rehabilitation: (1) Alternative A – No Action; (2) Alternative B – Minimal Campground Rehabilitation; (3) Alternative C – Campground Upgrade (NPS Preferred Alternative); and (4) Alternative D – Campground Modernization.

2.2 Alternative A – No Action Alternative

This alternative would not meet the goals of the project. It would not rehabilitate the facilities and landscape features at Seawall Campground and Picnic Area, nor would there be any changes in campground management. Under this alternative, the facilities would be repaired and rehabilitated incrementally if and when funds became available. Current NPS policies would continue: generator use would be permitted, except between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.; recreational vehicles would be limited to 35 feet in length, but there would be no limitations on width; and firewood collection would be allowed anywhere within the park. There would remain only two dishwater disposal facilities, both in Loop D, and some campers would continue to improperly dispose of dishwater and food residue. Management policies regarding nuisance wildlife would continue to be focused on educating campers and removing nuisance animals from the campground. This alternative is provided to set a baseline upon which to compare the effects of other alternatives.

2.3 Alternative B – Minimal Campground Rehabilitation

Alternative B would include rehabilitating and replacing structures, campsites, utilities, and drainage at Seawall Campground, and improving universal accessibility at Seawall Picnic Area. All existing park policies would continue, and no new facilities or amenities would be added to the site. To accommodate construction in the shoulder and off seasons, the campground would be closed until July 4th and would close again immediately after Labor Day during one season. The precise schedule, however, is tentative and is dependant on factors beyond NPS control, including the completion of construction designs and

drawings, and timing of the Congressional appropriation. The cost for Alternative B would be approximately $3,340,815, including $222,000 for the picnic area (in 2002 dollars).

Seawall Campground

Buildings

Two non-historic comfort stations, constructed in the mid-1960s, would be replaced. The structures, comfort stations #180 and #181, would be replaced with new wood clad buildings in the rustic design style of other buildings at the campground. The new buildings would have a simple rectangular plan with hipped, bellcast roofs and board and batten walls. All wooden exterior elements would be finished with stain. Unlike the existing structures, the new buildings would be universally accessible and comply with local health and building codes.

Two historic comfort stations (#104 and #105) would be rehabilitated to resemble their historic appearance, provide modern conveniences, and ensure universal accessibility. The two comfort stations were originally constructed in the late 1930s as part of the CCC work at Acadia, but have deteriorated over time. They are considered contributing elements of the cultural landscape of the campground.

Campsites

Alternative B (Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9) would make minor improvements to individual campsites necessary to correct drainage problems, restore privacy and campsite definition through vegetative screening, and more clearly define parking areas. Tent sites would accommodate two 8 feet by 10 feet tents with 3 feet minimum clearance around each tent, a fireplace with 3 feet minimum clearance around each side, and a picnic table. The sites would be surfaced with crushed stone aggregate. Four campsites that have severe drainage problems and/or little vegetative screening would be eliminated and revegetated with native shrubs and trees. Several areas have been identified where vegetation has become sparse, and a revegetation plan would be implemented to better define and screen individual campsites. Select "social" trails, which have developed throughout the campground, would be formalized. These are identified on figures as new walkways. Historic fireplaces exist in some areas of Loops A, B, and C. These would be evaluated to determine their integrity and, if necessary, would be rehabilitated or rebuilt using appropriate materials in their original locations. New concrete dumpster pads would be added where necessary in each loop.

Seven accessible campsites would be improved. Compacted aggregate campsite material would be placed on the sites and along paths to parking areas and comfort stations. New universally accessible picnic tables and grills would be added to the sites. Existing historic fireplaces would be rehabilitated, if necessary. New signs would be added designating the sites as universally accessible.

Substantial changes would be made to the group camping area (Loop G) as well. Each of the five campsites in this area would undergo some alterations. There are currently 25 picnic tables within Loop G, none of which are accessible to visitors with disabilities. Alternative B would add two universally accessible tables, and relocate three existing tables to other sites within Loop G. The total number of tables would increase to 27. In addition, two new universally accessible grills would be added to one of the sites, along with accessible parking and signage. Stabilized aggregate material would be placed along the path from this site to the comfort station (#181). Boulders would be added throughout the loop to serve as vehicle barriers and prevent cars from parking on grass and other vegetation.

Figure 5

Seawall Campground Loop A
Fig. 5 Link/Download (706KB)

Figure 6

Seawall Campground Loop B
Fig. 6 Link/Download (675KB)

Figure 7

Seawall Campground Loop C
Fig. 7 Link/Download (800KB)

Figure 8

Seawall Campground Loop D
Fig. 8 Link/Download (796)

Figure 9

Group Camping Area (Loop G)
Fig. 9 Link/Download (852KB)

Planting native shrub species, derived from locally-adapted stocks, would restore vegetation within Seawall Campground. The existing path between the picnic area restroom and the parking lot would also be revegetated with native species. Declining or deteriorated vegetation between campsites, which historically screened one campsite from another, would be replaced. Replacing vegetative material would be based on historical, pictorial, and/or physical documentation. If using the same kind of vegetative material would be technically, economically, or environmentally infeasible, then vegetation compatible in habit, form, color, bloom, texture, scale, and context would be used.

Utilities

The existing water system is old and deteriorating. Under Alternative B, the existing water supply system at the campground would be replaced with new pipes and infrastructure, including water spigot stations within each loop. The historic water tower, which presents a safety issue, would be removed and a new tower would be constructed in a different location. To provide adequate service to the campground and picnic area, a new water line would be installed along Route 102A to the campground and from Route 102A within the existing utility corridor to the picnic area. Culverts would be added beneath the roadways and campsite driveways, and drainage ditches would be dug in a number of locations to improve drainage and help move water away from campsites (Figure 10).

Existing electrical utilities would be replaced with subsurface power lines, and the old overhead feed through the woods north of the campground would be removed. In addition, the existing telephone service would be upgraded using enhanced wiring and additional lines to accommodate future capacity needs (Figure 11). Rehabilitating the comfort stations would include installing energy-efficient lighting systems, code-compliant receptacles, new electric service, new piping infrastructure, and new plumbing fixtures.

Park Policies

Current regulations limiting the number of vehicles to one per campsite, as well as the length of RVs at the campground (35 feet or less) would continue and would be enforced. There would be no restriction on vehicle width. The park would also make a greater effort to enforce current regulations on noise restriction times, though generator use would still be permitted between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Collecting firewood would be banned throughout the park. Efforts would be made by the NPS to inform visitors of this change in policy prior to their trip using the park's internet site and printed materials. This would allow visitors to plan ahead and supply their wood needs. Some firewood would still be available in the campground as a means of disposing of trees that fall on the campground roads or campsites during the winter.

Current management techniques regarding nuisance animals would continue. The park would continue to provide two dishwater disposal stations, both in Loop D. Rangers would continue to enforce food storage regulations, and visitor education signs would continue to be placed on each picnic table and in restrooms.

Seawall Picnic Area

The badly deteriorated comfort station building (#182) at the picnic area would be replaced with a new wood clad building similar to those at the campground. The new comfort station would be consistent with the rustic design style of other buildings; it would have a simple rectangular plan with a hipped, bellcast roof and board and batten walls and would be finished with stain.

Two existing picnic sites would be renovated to make them accessible to persons with disabilities (Figure 12). The sites would be stabilized with crushed fine aggregate paving material. Wheelchair accessible picnic tables and grills would be installed. A third picnic site, near the comfort station, would be closed and revegetated. Universally accessible sidewalks and ramps connecting the parking area, the comfort station, and the picnic sites, with no more than 5 percent grade, would also be added to the site. The parking lot would be restriped to provide two new handicap parking spaces.

Mitigation

Appropriate mitigative measures would be taken prior to and during construction to minimize impacts to adjacent areas, natural and cultural resources, and visitors. Mitigative measures would primarily include using proper sediment and erosion controls and using photos to document cultural resources that would be removed (such as the water tower). Erosion and sediment control measures would be used in areas of soil disturbance to minimize soil loss and protect nearby wetlands and water resources. These controls would include silt fences and sedimentation basins if necessary. During construction, mitigative measures would also be taken to protect local air quality, such as applying water and dust palliatives to reduce dust. To minimize impacts to wildlife habitat and vegetation, the limits of construction areas would be clearly delineated and construction equipment would be limited to previously disturbed or designated staging areas.

2.4 Alternative C – Campground Upgrade (NPS Preferred Alternative)

Alternative C is the NPS's preferred alternative. Alternative C would include all rehabilitation elements described in Alternative B (Figures 5-12), as well as improvements to the roadways. Construction would take place from September 2003 to June 2004, during which Seawall Campground would be temporarily closed. Loops A, C, D, and the group camping areas would remain open during July and August of both 2003 and 2004, but Loop B would be closed throughout one entire camping season so that road repairs could be completed. The picnic area would remain open year-round, although the comfort station (#182) would be demolished and rebuilt between October 2003 and April 2004. The exact schedule, however, is tentative and is dependant on factors beyond NPS control, including the completion of construction designs and drawings, and timing of the Congressional appropriation.

Alternative C would cost approximately $4,110,000, including $222,000 for the picnic area (in 2002 dollars).

Seawall Campground

Buildings

As in Alternative B, comfort stations #104 and #105 would be rehabilitated, and comfort stations #180 and #181 would be replaced. Dishwashing stations would be added in all comfort stations to provide a place for campers to dispose of dishwater and food scraps, helping to reduce food sources to nuisance animals within the campground.

Figure 10

Water and Sewer Utilities
Fig. 10 Link/Download (811KB)

Figure 11

Electric Utilities
Fig. 11 Link/Download (757KB)

Figure 12

Seawall Picnic Area
Fig. 12 Link/Download (832KB)

Figure 13

Roadway Improvements
Fig. 13 Link/Download (780KB)

Roadways
Large boulders to serve as vehicle barriers would be added throughout the campground. This could be completed in conjunction with continued camper education on campsite vehicle limits and enforcing current parking regulations. This alternative would also include improvements to the roadways within the campground (Figure 13). Road shoulders would be improved by removing duff and sloping them to the outside, thereby enhancing the drainage flows. A combination of pavement overlay and pavement reconstruction would be used to improve the condition of road surfaces within the campground. A 2-inch hot top overlay would be placed over road sections that are in relatively good condition in Loops A, C, D, and G. In Loop B, full-depth sections of roadway showing more serious pavement distress would be excavated and replaced with new base and 3-inch hot top binder courses, followed by a 2-inch overlay. In addition, existing culverts that are corroded or damaged would be replaced throughout the campground. New culverts would be the same size as existing ones.

Campsites
Campsite improvements would be the same as those in Alternative B (Figures 5-9).

Utilities
Improvements to utilities would be the same as those proposed in Alternative B (Figures 10 and 11).

Park Policies
RV size would be limited to 35 feet in length with one pull-out or awning (a maximum extended width of approximately 12 feet wide). Under Alternative C, generator use would be banned. No electric hookups would be provided. This would be done to decrease noise levels, protect local air quality, and preserve the rustic, rural setting. Firewood collection would be banned within the campground, but visitors would be allowed to collect dead and down wood in other areas of the park within 100 feet of roadways that are open to automobile use.

Seawall Picnic Area

As in Alternative B, the comfort station (#182) at the picnic area would be replaced. Two picnic sites would be rehabilitated to make them universally accessible by replacing existing gravel with stabilized aggregate material and adding accessible picnic tables, grills, and parking (Figure 12).

Mitigation

Appropriate mitigative measures would be taken prior to and during construction to minimize impacts to adjacent areas, natural and cultural resources, and visitors. Mitigative measures would primarily include using proper sediment and erosion controls and using photos to document cultural resources that would be removed (such as the water tower). Erosion and sediment control measures would be used in areas of soil disturbance to minimize soil loss and protect nearby wetlands and water resources. These controls would include silt fences and sedimentation basins if necessary. During construction, mitigative measures would also be taken to protect local air quality, such as applying water and dust palliatives to reduce dust. To minimize impacts to wildlife habitat and vegetation, the limits of construction areas would be clearly delineated and construction equipment would be limited to previously disturbed or designated staging areas.

2.5 Alternative D – Campground Modernization

Alternative D would include all the rehabilitation elements listed for Alternatives B and C (Figures 5-13) but would also include additional elements to modernize services. The campground would provide designated dishwashing stations in comfort stations in each loop with hot running water. Hot and cold running water and showers would be added at new and rehabilitated comfort stations (#104, 105, 180, 181). This would require installing water heaters and insulated water lines. Electric hookups would be installed in Loop C to allow RVs to hook up to power, rather than operate on individual generators. Additional underground electric lines would be run to Loop C.

RV length would be limited to 35 feet, but vehicles with slide-outs and/or awnings on both sides would be permitted (a maximum total width of approximately 15 feet). Firewood collection would be allowed within the campground, but banned elsewhere in the park.

Under this alternative, the campground would be completely closed for the duration of the construction period, anticipated to run from Spring 2003 through late June 2004. The picnic area would remain open year-round, with the exception of the comfort station (#182), which would be closed from October 2003 through June 2004 for demolition and reconstruction. The precise schedule is tentative and is dependant on factors beyond NPS control, including the completion of construction designs and drawings, and timing of the Congressional appropriation. Alternative D would cost approximately $5,055,000, including $222,000 for the picnic area (in 2002 dollars).

Mitigation

Appropriate mitigative measures would be taken prior to and during construction to minimize impacts to adjacent areas, natural and cultural resources, and visitors. Mitigative measures would primarily include using proper sediment and erosion controls and using photos to document cultural resources that would be removed (such as the water tower). Erosion and sediment control measures would be used in areas of soil disturbance to minimize soil loss and protect nearby wetlands and water resources. These controls would include silt fences and sedimentation basins if necessary. During construction, mitigative measures would also be taken to protect local air quality, such as applying water and dust palliatives to reduce dust. To minimize impacts to wildlife habitat and vegetation, the limits of construction areas would be clearly delineated and construction equipment would be limited to previously disturbed or designated staging areas.

2.6 Environmentally Preferred Alternative

The Environmentally Preferred Alternative is defined by the Council on Environmental Quality as “the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in the National Environmental Policy Act [Section 101 (b)]. Section 101 (b) states that the Environmentally Preferred Alternative should:

1) "Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations.
2) Ensure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings.
3) Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences.
4) Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice.
5) Achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities.
6) Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources."

The Environmentally Preferred Alternative is the NPS preferred alternative, Alternative C. Of the alternatives considered, Alternative C best satisfies the six NEPA goals. Rehabilitating the campground and picnic area, specifically campsites, comfort stations, and fire rings, would restore the 1930s landscape and improve visitor experiences. This would satisfy goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Establishing new park policies regarding firewood collection, equipment size, and generator use would better protect the park's resources over the long term, satisfying goals 1, 5, and 6. In addition, this alternative would bring Seawall Campground and Seawall Picnic Area into compliance with federal regulations for universal accessibility (goal 2). Alternative C also includes constructing additional dishwater disposal stations, which help to reduce the incidence and threat of nuisance wildlife. This would also satisfy goal 2. Roadway improvements would be completed within the existing alignment and would not impact natural or cultural resources (goals 2 and 5). This alternative would foster a sense of respect for the unique surroundings and would not impair important resources of Acadia National Park. Alternative C would best meet all of the goals of NEPA.

Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, would not meet the goals of the project or of NEPA. Many of the comfort stations would remain inaccessible to visitors with disabilities, as well as deteriorating and outdated, thereby not meeting NEPA goals 2 or 4. Alternative B, Minimal Campground Rehabilitation, contains many of the same elements as the Preferred Alternative, Alternative C, and would meet many of the NEPA goals. Alternative B would satisfy goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, but not to the extent that Alternative C would. Alternative B lacks several components that would add to the range of uses available and visitor services. Campground modernization, Alternative D, would have greater adverse impacts to natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources at the project area, and would therefore not meet NEPA goals 1, 3, 4, 5, or 6 as well as the Preferred Alternative.

Table 1: Summary of NPS Goals and Alternatives				
Goal	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**
Preserve the rustic character and historic structures of the campground	Routine maintenance would be performed.	Comfort stations and campsites would be rehabilitated in keeping with the rustic character of the campground.	Comfort stations and campsites would be rehabilitated in keeping with the rustic character.	Modern amenities would be introduced to the campground, including showers, electric hookups and hot water.
Improve privacy between campsites	No action.	Implement a revegetation plan and formalize some social trails.	Implement a revegetation plan and formalize some social trails.	Implement a revegetation plan and formalize some social trails.
Restore natural sounds and reduce use conflicts	Generator use is permitted between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.	Generator use would be permitted between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.	Generators would be banned.	Generators would be banned; electric hookups added in Loop C.
Manage nuisance wildlife	No dishwater disposal or dishwashing stations.	No dishwater disposal or dishwashing stations.	Dishwater disposal stations would be provided in all comfort stations.	Dishwashing stations would be provided, along with hot water.
Develop a park-wide policy for firewood collecting	Firewood collection would continue to be allowed throughout the park.	Firewood collection would be banned throughout the park.	Firewood collection would be banned within the campground, but allowed in other areas of the park within 100 feet of roadways.	Firewood collection would be allowed within the campground, but banned elsewhere in the park.
Determine equipment sizes appropriate to protect natural resources	RV length is limited to not more than 35 feet. There would be no limit on width.	RV length would be not more than 35 feet. There would be no restriction on width.	RV length would be limited to not more than 35 feet and vehicle width not more than 12 feet.	RV length would be limited to not more than 35 feet and vehicle width not more than 15 feet.
Minimize impacts to visitors and local businesses	The campground would remain open in the short-term, but might be forced to close if facilities continued to deteriorate.	The campground would be closed during the shoulder seasons of one year, until July 4th and after Labor Day.	Loops A, C, D, and the group camping areas would be open during July and August, but Loop B would be closed for one entire year.	The campground would be closed for one entire year.
Costs		**$3,340,815**	**$4,110,000**	**$5,055,000**

Table 2: Summary of Environmental Consequences

Resource	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Wetlands	No changes to wetlands or water resources.	No permanent wetland losses. Impacts would be negligible	No permanent wetland losses. Impacts would be negligible.	No permanent wetland losses. Impacts would be negligible.
Vegetation	Minor long-term adverse impacts result resulting from trampling, social trails, and firewood collection.	Minor long-term beneficial effects as a result of revegetation plan, and banning firewood collecting within the park.	Minor long-term beneficial effects as a result of revegetation plan and banning firewood collecting within the campground.	Minor long-term beneficial effects as a result of revegetation plan.
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	No short-term or long-term impacts	Negligible short-term and long-term impacts	Negligible short-term and long-term impacts	Negligible short-term and long-term impacts
Air Quality	Minor negative short-term impacts from generator use.	Short-term minor adverse impact on campground air quality; negligible impact on regional air quality.	Short-term minor beneficial effect on campground air quality; negligible impact on regional air quality.	Short-term minor beneficial effect on campground air quality; negligible impact on regional air quality.
Soundscape	Minor long-term adverse impacts from generator use.	Minor long-term adverse impacts from generator use.	Minor long-term benefits from banning generator use.	Minor long-term benefits from banning generator use.
Cultural Resources	Moderate long-term adverse impacts from deteriorating structures and landscape.	Moderate long-term benefits to historic structures and cultural landscape.	Moderate long-term benefits to historic structures and cultural landscape.	Moderate long-term benefits to historic structures. Minor long-term adverse impact to cultural landscape from electric hook-ups.
Visitor Use and Experience	Minor long-term adverse effects due to deteriorating facilities.	Moderate long-term benefits to visitor experience from improvements. Short-term minor adverse impacts from construction and closure (September through June of one year).	Moderate long-term benefits to visitor experience from improvements. Short-term minor adverse impacts from construction and closure (September through June of one year).	Moderate long-term benefits to visitor experience from improvements. Short-term moderate adverse impacts from construction and closure (one entire year).
Socioeconomic Environment	No project-related short-term impacts.	Minor short-term adverse impact as a result of closing campground during shoulder seasons. Minor long-term beneficial impacts to park and region.	Minor short-term adverse impact to park as a result of closing campground during shoulder seasons. Minor long-term beneficial impacts to park and region.	Moderate short-term adverse impact to park as a result of closing the campground for an entire season. Minor long-term beneficial impacts to park and region.

3 Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the existing environmental conditions and the environmental consequences of the action alternatives in and around Seawall Campground and Seawall Picnic Area. The chapter is organized by resource topic: the existing conditions are described, followed by a discussion of probable impacts of each of the four alternatives.

3.2 Methodology for Assessing Impacts

As required by NEPA, potential impacts are described in terms of type (beneficial or adverse), context (site-specific, local, or regional), duration (short-term or long-term), and levels of intensity (negligible, minor, moderate, or major).

Type

Beneficial: A positive change in the condition or appearance of the resource or a change that moves the resource toward a desired condition.

Adverse: A change that moved the resource away from a desired condition or detracts from its appearance or condition.

Context

Site-specific: The impact would affect the project site.
Local: The impact would affect the park.
Regional: The impact would affect localities, cities, or towns surrounding the park.

Duration

For all resources and values, the duration of impacts in this document is defined as follows:

Short-term: Impacts that last less than two years.
Long-term: Impacts that last longer than two years.

Levels of Intensity

Because definitions of levels of intensity (negligible, minor, moderate, or major) vary by impact topic, intensity definitions are provided separately for each impact topic.

Impairment

In addition to determining the environmental consequences of the preferred or other alternatives, *NPS Management Policies* (2001) and *Director's Order 12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision Making* require analysis of potential effects to determine if actions would impair park resources.

A fundamental purpose of the NPS, as provided for in its Organic Act (1916) and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act (1970), as amended 1978, and recognizing a national park system, begins with a mandate to conserve park resources and values. However, the laws do give the National Park Service the management discretion to allow impacts to park resource and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of the park, as long as the impact does not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values. Although Congress has given the National Park Service the management discretion to allow certain impacts within parks, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement that the NPS must leave park resources and values unimpaired, unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise. The prohibited impairment is an impact that, in the professional judgment of the responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of park resources or values, including opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources and values. An impact would be more likely to constitute impairment to the extent it affects a resource or value whose conservation is:

- Necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park;
- Key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park; or
- Identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents.

Impairment may result not only from NPS activities in managing the park, but also visitor activities, or activities undertaken by concessionaires, contractors, and others operating in the park. A determination on impairment is made for each natural and cultural resource impact topic.

Cumulative Impacts

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, which implement the NEPA, require assessment of cumulative impacts in the decision making process for Federal projects. Cumulative impacts are defined as "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions" (40 CFR 1508.7).

Cumulative impacts were determined by combining the impacts of the alternatives with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Therefore, it was necessary to identify other ongoing or reasonably foreseeable future projects at Acadia National Park and, if applicable, the surrounding region. There are a number of other recent, planned, or underway projects within Acadia National Park; however, most of these are separated spatially or temporally from the Seawall Campground and Picnic Area project and would not result in cumulative impacts. The few projects that could result in cumulative effects and their potential impacts are described in the appropriate resource sections below.

3.3 Natural Resources

For natural resources, impacts were assessed for soils, wetlands, vegetation communities, wildlife and wildlife habitats, air quality, and soundscape. Resources dismissed from further consideration were discussed in Chapter 1 of this document.

3.3.1 Soils

Affected Environment

The soils at Seawall Campground and Picnic Area (Figure 14) consist of the Lyman-Scantic-Herman complex and originate from glacial till. Lyman soils are shallow, gently sloping to very steep, and somewhat excessively drained. Scantic soils, formed from marine or lake sediments, are very deep, nearly level to gently sloping, poorly drained, and are not very erosive. Herman soils, which are very deep and derived from glacial till, occur on varying slopes and are susceptible to erosion (NPS 2001a). Loops C and D of the campground are characterized by soils of the Udorthents-urban land complex. The Udorthents-Urban Land complex consists of areas that have been altered by cutting and filling and impervious areas.

Soils at the campground have been compacted over time because of concentrated, heavy visitor use. Compaction can increases the soil’s resistance to root penetration, which can reduce the emergence of seedlings. The change in soil characteristics can adversely affect the germination, establishment, growth, and reproduction of plants. Further, soil compaction reduces the size of pore spaces between mineral particles, altering the soil fauna. Recreation that compacts soil is, therefore, likely to cause shifts in distribution and species composition of the soil fauna (Vandeman 2002).

Environmental Consequences

Methodology

Negligible: Impact would be at the lowest level of detection or not measurable.

Minor: Impact that would result in a detectable change, but the change would be slight and localized. There could be changes in a soil's profile in a relatively small area, but the change would not increase the potential for erosion.

Moderate: Impact that could result in a loss or alteration of the topsoil in a small area, and/or the potential for erosion to remove small quantities of additional soil would increase.

Major: Impact would result in a permanent loss or alteration of soils in a relatively large area or as a result of the action there would be a strong likelihood for erosion to remove large quantities of additional soil.

Effects of Alternative A

Soil compaction throughout the campground would continue. Drainage problems also would continue. The impact would be long-term, adverse, and minor. There would be no impairment of soil resources.

Cumulative Impacts

Soil compaction and drainage problems would continue at Seawall; however, other projects proposed throughout the park to improve drainage and erosion would benefit soils.

Effects of Alternative B

Eliminating four poorly functioning campsites and adding culverts throughout the campground would improve drainage. Soil compaction would continue with continued use of the campground; however, formalizing social trails would reduce random trampling of soils. Construction would not require removing large amounts of soil. The impact of Alternative B would be long-term, beneficial, and minor. Because effects would overall be beneficial, there would be no impairment of soil resources.

Cumulative Impacts

Other ongoing and proposed construction and utility projects throughout the park would each cause minor temporary disturbance to soils at the project sites. Several proposed projects plan to improve drainage and wastewater systems, as does this project. The cumulative effect of such improvements would be beneficial.

Effects of Alternative C

As in Alternative C, eliminating four campsites and adding culverts would improve drainage. Formalizing social trails and banning firewood collection within the campground would also decrease soil compaction. There would not be construction that would remove large amounts of soils. The overall impact of this alternative on soils would be long-term, beneficial, and minor. Because effects would overall be beneficial, there would be no impairment of soil resources.

Figure 14

Soils Mapping
Fig. 14 Link/Download (639KB)

Cumulative Impacts
The cumulative impacts would be the same as in Alternative B.

Effects of Alternative D
The effects of Alternative D would be similar to those in Alternatives B and C. Alternative D would have a long-term beneficial minor impact on soils as a result of improvements to drainage. Because effects would overall be beneficial, there would be no impairment of soil resources.

Cumulative Impacts
The cumulative impacts would be the same as in Alternative B.

3.3.2 Wetlands

Affected Environment

The interior of Mount Desert Island is drained by 12 major watershed systems. Acadia National Park's drainages are generally small, short and steep, averaging less than 3 miles (5 km) from headwaters to the sea. Average annual precipitation of 55 inches (140 cm) and frequent sea fog maintain water levels through much of the year. Stream flows, however, are usually very low in late summer and early fall because of rapid runoff and poor moisture retention by the upland soils. November has the most rainfall, which increases lake levels and stream discharge in late fall (Kahl et al. 2000).

The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) has recently updated its wetland mapping in the Acadia National Park region (Calhoun et al. 1994). The NWI classifies wetlands for the purposes of regulation, habitat evaluation, inventory and management. Wetlands in Acadia National Park are diverse, and include marine aquatic beds, intertidal shellfish flats, salt marshes, freshwater marshes, forested wetlands, and peatlands. For the purposes of this EA, wetlands are also classified according to the system described in Cowardin et al. 1979 (Figure 15).

Palustrine forested wetlands (PFO) dominated by red maple (*Acer rubrum*), alder (*Alnus* sp.), larch (*Larix laricina*), and northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), occur in low areas of the campground where water collects on the surface or in seeps. Herbaceous species present in these wetlands include flat-topped white aster (*Aster umbellatus*), northern long sedge (*Carex folliculata*), bladder sedge (*Carex intumescens*), bristlebract sedge (*Carex tribuloides*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), wool grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), and skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*). There are no perennial streams or major waterways within the campground or picnic area, but surface runoff collects and flows in intermittent and ephemeral channels in some locations. Portions of these wetlands are dominated by shrubs, primarily alder, and are classified as palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands (PSS). The majority of wetlands within the campground are small isolated wetlands or small wet depressions connected by culverts. A larger sloping forested wetland (PFO) dominated by northern white cedar and sphagnum mosses (*Sphagnum* sp.) extends from the amphitheater to Loop B. This wetland is connected via culverts to a network of small wetlands within Loop B, and eventually to a large

structurally complex shrub swamp (PSS) and emergent marsh (PEM) bordering on a pond east of the campground. Another larger forested wetland system borders a perennial stream west of the campground and is outside the project area.

A salt-water pond, approximately 4.5 acres in size, is located east of Seawall Campground along Seawall Causeway, adjacent to Route 102A. It is subject to coastal flooding during storms. The pond has fringe salt marsh vegetation, and provides habitat for wildlife and waterfowl including mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*), black ducks (*Anas rubripes*), bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), green-backed heron (*Butorides virescens*), and black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Coastal rocky intertidal wetlands also occur along the marine edge of Seawall Picnic Area and along the Route 102A causeway. This rocky intertidal wetland is dominated by algae, including rockweed (*Fucus spirilis, Fucus vesiculosus, Ascophyllum nodosus*), irish moss (*Chondrus crispus*), and sea lettuce (*Ulva lactuca*).

Wetland Functional Values Assessment

A functional values assessment was performed for the wetland types within the Seawall project area. The purpose of the assessment was to determine the ability of each wetland to protect the environment. The methodology used was developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (New England District) as described in *The Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement, Wetland Functions and Values - a Descriptive Approach* (1995). This assessment technique is a simple way to determine whether a wetland provides a particular function or value, and which of these are the principal or most important functions or values of that wetland. Functions were analyzed for three wetland types: (1) small isolated wetlands, (2) the northern white cedar wetland, and (3) the off-site salt-water pond.

Table 3 Wetland Functions and Values

	Wetland		
Function/Value	**1**	**2**	**3**
Groundwater recharge/discharge	+	+	-
Flood flow alteration	P	-	+
Fish and shellfish habitat	-	-	P
Sediment/toxicant/pathogen retention	+	-	+
Nutrient removal/retention/transformation	-	-	+
Production export	-	-	-
Sediment/shoreline stabilization	-	-	+
Wildlife habitat	+	P	P
Recreation	-	-	+
Education/scientific value	-	-	+
Uniqueness/heritage	-	-	-
Visual quality/aesthetics	-	-	P
Endangered species habitat	-	-	-

+ = Function/value occurs in the wetland

- = Function/value does not occur in the wetland

P = principal function/value of the wetland

Figure 15

Wetlands Mapping
Fig. 15 Link/Download (754KB)

Environmental Consequences

Methodology

Impacts to wetlands have been evaluated in the context of the type of impact and the importance of the resource based on the functional values assessment. For the purposes of this analysis, impacts were categorized as indirect and direct. Indirect impacts include work that would result in temporary damage to vegetation due to construction or the restricted access to sunlight due to shading. Direct impacts include those activities that would result in the conversion of a wetland community to upland as a result of fill material.

Negligible: Work would cause indirect impacts to wetlands only.

Minor: Work would cause the direct impact of less than 0.1 acre of wetlands.

Moderate: Work would cause the direct impact of between 0.1 and 1 acre of wetlands.

Major: Work would cause the direct impact of greater than 1 acre of wetlands.

Effects of Alternative A

Alternative A would result in no changes to wetlands. Poor drainage and runoff would continue to contribute small amounts of sediment to wetlands within the campground.

Cumulative Impacts

Because there would be no impact to wetlands, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts to wetlands.

Effects of Alternatives B, C, and D

Rehabilitating campsites, utilities, and roads within Seawall Campground would require work in proximity to wetlands, particularly in Loops B and C. There would be indirect temporary impacts to wetlands associated with utility reconstruction due to the close proximity of small wetland seeps and depressions to the road and proposed utility corridors. Replacing utilities outside the campground could result in discharging sediment to the adjacent wetland if erosion control technologies fail prior to these areas being revegetated and stabilized. Installing new electric lines would have short-term minor impacts on a small, isolated wetland in the area of the amphitheater. Trenching through the wetland would be required and would impact approximately 50 square feet. It is assumed that equipment such as a ditch witch would be used for trenching. The topsoil would be separated, and the ditch dug in the subsoil. The topsoil would then be replaced and seeded with a wetland seed mix. No permanent loss of wetlands would occur as a result of any of these alternatives. Rehabilitation work at the picnic area and within the existing highway shoulder would not affect the intertidal wetlands along the coast.

As proposed and with appropriate erosion and sediment control measures installed and maintained, work within the campground and picnic area would have only minor direct impacts on wetlands, hence there would be no impairment to wetland resources.

Cumulative Impacts
Based on best professional judgment, there would be negligible cumulative impacts to wetlands.

3.3.3 Vegetation Communities

Affected Environment

Vegetative communities have been classified using the *Standardized National Vegetation Classification System* (Nature Conservancy 1994) (Figure 16). Within the campground, spruce is the dominant canopy species. Sub-dominant species include a variety of mixed hardwoods, such as red maple, yellow birch (*Betula allegheniensis*), gray birch (*Betula populifolia*), and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The forest is mature and even aged, with 75 to 100 percent crown closure. Undisturbed areas of the forest soil are covered with a ground layer of mosses and ferns as well as herbaceous species (wild sarsaparilla, *Aralia nudicaulis*; asters including *Aster acuminatus* and *Aster macrophyllus*; bead lily, *Clintonia borealis*; bunchberry, *Cornus canadensis*; canada mayflower, *Maianthemum canadense*). Northern temperate shrub species including witherod (*Viburnum nudum var. cassinoides*), bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*), and mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*) form the understory of undisturbed areas. Plant communities adjacent to the campground and picnic area are mapped as Maritime Spruce-Fir Forest and Spruce-Fir-Red Maple Forest.

There are no unique plant communities or state-listed rare plant species in the vicinity of the Seawall Campground or Picnic Area, although an uncommon coastal beach species, oyster leaf (*Mertensia maritima*), occurs along the rocky beach at the picnic area.

The forest vegetation within the campground shows signs of change due to visitor use. All dead branches that have fallen and those naturally occurring seven feet from the ground or lower have been removed from the landscape in many areas adjacent to campsites. Trees that have died, fallen, or been identified as hazards have been removed from the site, leaving more open space. Natural regeneration has virtually stopped within the campground most likely due to visitor use patterns.

Environmental Consequences

Methodology

Negligible: Impact that may result in a change in vegetation, but the change would be at the lowest level of detection or not measurable. Ecological processes would not be affected.

Minor: Impact that would result in a detectable change, but the change would be slight and have a localized effect on a vegetative or natural community. This could include changes in the abundance or distribution of individuals in a localized area, but not changes that affect the

Figure 16

National Vegetation Classification System Mapping
Fig. 16 Link/Download (715KB)

viability of local communities. Changes to localized ecological processes would be minimal.

Moderate: Impact that would result in a clearly detectable change in a vegetative or natural community and could have an appreciable effect. This could include changes in the abundance or distribution of local communities, but not changes that affect the viability of regional communities. Changes to localized ecological processes would be of limited extent.

Major: Impact that would be severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial to a vegetative or natural community. These impacts would be substantial, highly noticeable, and may result in widespread change and be permanent in nature. This could include changes in the abundance or distribution of a local or regional community to the extent that the community would not be likely to recover (adverse) or would return to a sustainable level (beneficial). Significant ecological processes would be altered, and landscape-level changes would be expected.

Effects of Alternative A

Vehicles with awnings or pull-outs on both sides would continue to have a minor adverse effect on vegetation, as vegetation could have to be cleared along roadways and campsites to accommodate the width of these vehicles. Other visitors would continue to park on vegetated areas, and trampling would continue to affect vegetation establishment in the understory areas within the campground as visitors create new social trails and collect firewood. Alternative A would result in continued long-term adverse minor effects to vegetation. There would be no impairment to vegetation.

Cumulative Impacts

The park's firewood policy would continue to allow collecting at Seawall and throughout the park. Collecting at the campground would contribute to cumulatively long-term adverse effects on vegetation, such as trampling of the understory.

Effects of Alternative B

Rehabilitating and reconstructing four comfort stations within the campground would result in negligible short-term losses of vegetation directly adjacent to the buildings because vegetation would be removed around the perimeter of the buildings or trampled by construction workers and equipment. The building would not be enlarged and the surrounding area would be reseeded following construction; therefore, the impact would be short-term and negligible. Reconstructing the picnic area comfort station (#182) and relocating the path between the building and the parking area would result in the minor loss of 1,110 square feet of scrub vegetation; however, one old picnic site (600 square feet) would be reforested, as would four campsites (17,115 square feet), resulting in a net gain of vegetated area.

As there would be no restrictions on vehicle width, vehicles with awnings or pull-outs on both sides would continue to have a minor adverse effect on established vegetation along the sides of roads and

campsites. Alternative B would result in a minor long-term beneficial effect to vegetation, as there would be no impairment to vegetation.

Cumulative Impacts
Alternative B would establish a policy to ban firewood collection throughout the park. The ban at the campground would contribute to beneficial cumulative effects to nutrient cycling and forest regeneration. Alternative B would result in a net gain of vegetated area and would not contribute to the cumulative loss of vegetation resulting from proposed park projects such as rehabilitating trails, installing new interpretive exhibits, and updating utilities.

Effects of Alternative C
As in Alternative B, rehabilitating and reconstructing four comfort stations within the campground would result in negligible short-term losses of vegetation directly adjacent to the buildings. Reconstructing the picnic area comfort station and relocating the path between the building and the parking area would result in a minor permanent loss of approximately 1,110 square feet of vegetation. Revegetating four campsites and numerous smaller areas, including 600 square feet at the picnic area, would add an estimated 17,115 square feet of vegetation throughout the campground.

Soil disturbance and revegetating the disturbed slopes along the road during and following road rehabilitation could result in the introduction of non-native or invasive species. Mitigation measures incorporated into the design of the road, including park inspection and approval of topsoil sources as free of invasive species and use of park-developed native seed mixtures, would reduce the potential for the introduction of undesirable plant species that are not currently part of the vegetation community. However, it is possible that some non-native species could be introduced and spread in the area. This would require additional monitoring by park staff and treatment to manage invasive species, and would be a long-term impact of unknown magnitude, depending on the type and amount of invasive material, on native vegetation.

The landscape plan includes planting to restore natural vegetation between campsites and loops. The existing path between the picnic area restroom and the picnic area parking lot would also be revegetated with native species. Redefining parking spaces at the campground would also allow vegetation to reestablish between campsites, as visitors would no longer be able to park outside of designated areas.

Overall, Alternative C would have a beneficial long-term minor effect on vegetation, and there would be no impairment to vegetation.

Cumulative Impacts
The policy for firewood collecting would change throughout the park so that firewood could only be collected within 100 feet of roadways. Banning firewood collection within the campground would contribute to beneficial cumulative effects to nutrient cycling and forest regeneration. The net gain in vegetated area within the campground would counteract adverse effects to vegetation resulting from other development projects within the park.

Effects of Alternative D

Alternative D would generally have the same effects as Alternative C. However, Alternative D would continue to have long-term minor adverse effects from continuing firewood collection within the campground. Additionally, recreational vehicles with awnings or pull-outs on both sides would continue to have a minor adverse effect on vegetation. Overall, this alternative would have long-term minor adverse effects on vegetation at the campground and picnic area; therefore, there would be no impairment to vegetation.

Cumulative Impacts

Firewood collection would become banned throughout the park, with the exception of the campground where collecting would be permitted.

3.3.4 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

Affected Environment

Many resident and migratory species of wildlife inhabit the park, including at least 52 species of mammals, 338 species of birds, 11 species of reptiles, and 15 species of amphibians (NPS 2002). The variety of birds is particularly notable with diverse populations of raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl, herons, warblers and other migratory songbirds. Other common wildlife in the park includes coyotes (*Canis latrans*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), snowshoe hares (*Lepus americanus*), and squirrels, as well as numerous species of insects and other invertebrates. Upland and wetland habitats adjacent to Seawall Campground and Picnic Area provide a range of wildlife habitat types. The forested uplands and wetlands, typical of much of the landscape of Mount Desert Island, provide nesting, feeding, migratory, and overwintering habitat for a range of species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

Specifically, the habitats surrounding the campground and picnic area are home to red-back voles (*Clethrionomys gapperi*), raccoons, coyotes, white-tailed deer, porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*), mink (*Mustela vison*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), American toad (*Bufo americanus*), spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*), eastern newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), and mice, shrews, snakes, salamanders, and frogs. Bats, including hoary (*Lasiurus cinereus*), red (*Lasiurus borealis*), silver-haired (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), little brown (*Myotis lucifugus*), big brown (*Eptesicus fuscus*), and northern long-eared (*Myotis septentrionalis*), have also been reported in and around the campground and picnic area. As noted, the variety of birds observed in the park as a whole is notable, and many have been observed in the Seawall area as well. Some of the most common include tufted titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), northern yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas brachydactyla*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), black-throated green warbler (*Dendroica virens*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), and a variety of waterfowl and wading birds (NPS, B. Connery, pers. comm., September 24, 2002).

Food residue dumped near campsites attracts animals such as skunks and raccoons, both of which can carry rabies and pose a risk to public health. Animals that become habituated to people and food at campsites also may bite visitors or damage camping equipment or vehicles in search of food. The NPS is required to trap and euthanize animals (primarily raccoons) that pose a safety threat to campground visitors. Approximately five animals are trapped each season. To address this problem, the park has added raccoon-proof waste receptacles, increased ranger patrols to enforce food storage regulations, added visitor education signs to each picnic table and restroom, and instituted a reporting system for visitors to report nuisance animal activity.

Environmental Consequences

Methodology

Negligible: Impact that may result in a change in wildlife, but the change would be at the lowest level of detection or not measurable.

Minor: Impact that would result in a detectable change, but the change would be slight and have a localized effect on a population. This could include changes in the abundance or distribution of individuals in a localized area, but not changes that affect the viability of local populations.

Moderate: Impact that would result in a clearly detectable change in a population and could have an appreciable effect on a population. This could include changes in the abundance or distribution of local populations, but not changes that affect the viability of regional populations.

Major: Impact that would be severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial to a population. These impacts would be substantial, highly noticeable, and may result in widespread change and be permanent in nature. This could include changes in the abundance or distribution of a local or regional population to the extent that the population would not be likely to recover (adverse) or would return to a sustainable level (beneficial).

Effects of Alternative A

The collection of firewood would continue to affect wildlife habitat and nutrient cycling in the campground. Disposing of dishwater and food wastes adjacent to campsites would continue to attract wildlife, and result in nuisance animals that would eventually be trapped and euthanized by park staff. Because of the relatively small size of the affected area and because there would be no disturbance of wildlife due to construction activities, Alternative A would have a negligible effect on wildlife. There would be no impairment to wildlife or wildlife habitat.

Cumulative Impacts
Nuisance animals are a problem not only at Seawall Campground, but also at Blackwoods Campground. Continuing to improperly dispose of dishwater and food wastes at Seawall would contribute adversely to the overall parkwide nuisance wildlife problem.

Effects of Alternative B
The loss of trees due to utility relocation would result in a negligible long-term loss of habitat for birds and other wildlife because ample habitat is available in the forests surrounding the project area. Further, wildlife in the project area would be habituated to high levels of disturbance and human activity and would be affected negligibly, if at all, during construction activities. No existing habitats would be permanently lost or degraded.

Disposing of dishwater and food wastes adjacent to campsites would continue to attract wildlife, and likely result in nuisance animals, which would eventually be trapped and euthanized by park staff. The number of nuisance animals trapped is approximately five each season, and it can be assumed that this would continue.

Overall, the impact of Alternative B on wildlife at Seawall Campground and Picnic Area would be negligible, and there would be no impairment to wildlife or wildlife habitat.

Cumulative Impacts
As in Alternative A, no accommodations would be made to dispose of dishwater and food wastes at Seawall Campground. The project would contribute to the parkwide nuisance animal problem. If improvements at Blackwoods Campground include dishwashing disposal stations, this adverse cumulative effect could be reduced.

Effects of Alternative C
The effects of the loss of trees and utility relocation on wildlife would be similar to Alternative B. Installing dishwater disposal stations would eliminate dishwater and food waste disposal adjacent to campsites and would help reduce the occurrence of nuisance animals and associated health risks to campers. This would have a minor long-term beneficial effect. During construction, wildlife in the project area would be habituated to high levels of disturbance and human activity and would be affected negligibly, if at all. No existing habitats would be permanently lost or degraded.

Overall, Alternative C would have a minor long-term benefit to wildlife at Seawall Campground and Picnic Area. There would be no impairment to wildlife or wildlife habitat.

Cumulative Impacts
Providing dishwashing disposal stations would have a beneficial effect on the nuisance animal problem in the park. If improvements at Blackwoods Campground also include dishwashing stations, the cumulative beneficial effect would be even greater.

Effects of Alternative D
The impacts of Alternative D would be the same as those in Alternative C. The impacts would be negligible, and there would be no impairment of wildlife or wildlife habitat.

Cumulative Impacts
The cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative C.

3.3.5 Air Quality

Affected Environment

The Clean Air Act of 1963, as amended, and associated NPS policies require the NPS to protect air quality in parks. Located along the mid-coast of Maine, Acadia National Park is downwind from large urban and industrial areas in states to the south and west. Periodically, high concentrations of air pollutants blow into the park from these areas. Acadia is considered a Class I area under the Clean Air Act, which means that the park deserves the highest level of air-quality protection. Summer ozone levels occasionally exceed federal health standards, and the effects of atmospheric deposition are a major concern at the park. Acid precipitation (rain, snow, and fog) can also be a major influence on lake and stream chemistry, cause nutrient enrichment in estuaries, and affect sensitive vegetation.

Small generators emit air quality pollutants, particularly nitrogen oxides (NOx) and carbon monoxide (CO). Such generators are commonly used in recreational vehicles and are currently permitted to run within the campground between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. Visitors occasionally complain about fumes from these generators.

Environmental Consequences

Methodology

Negligible: Impact would have no impact or detectable effect on air quality.

Minor: Impact would have a slight effect, causing a change in air emissions or visibility.

Moderate: Impact would be clearly detectable and would cause an appreciable change in local air emissions or visibility.

Major: Impact would cause a substantial, highly noticeable change in local or regional air emissions or visibility.

Effects of Alternative A
Air quality in the park and at the campground and picnic area would remain at its current level. Generator use within the campground would continue to have a minor, negative impact on the short-term air quality. There would be no impairment of air quality.

Cumulative Impacts
Construction projects at the park would be scheduled so that they do not overlap to minimize impacts to local air quality. However, ongoing generator use within the campground would combine with construction-period rises in pollutants to increase the adverse effect to air quality.

Effects of Alternative B
Although improvements to Seawall Campground would require using heavy equipment during construction, emissions and dust associated with these activities would be short-term and negligible in a local and regional context. Generator use within the campground would continue to have a minor, negative impact on the short-term air quality, but overall, these generators contribute negligibly to the air quality of the region. The overall impact of Alternative B on air quality would be negligible over the long-term, and there would be no impairment of air quality.

Cumulative Impacts
Cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative A; however, there would be a short period of construction at Seawall Campground where emissions and dust levels would be increased but would have a negative effect on the air quality of the park and region when combined with other park projects.

Effects of Alternative C
Improvements to Seawall Campground would require using heavy equipment during construction, which could result in a temporary increase in emissions and dust to the air. Making roadway improvements in this alternative could add to this, as additional heavy equipment would be required. This would be would be short-term and negligible in a local and regional context. Generator use would be banned in Alternative C, resulting in a short-term minor beneficial effect to air quality by eliminating emissions and fumes. The overall impact of Alternative C on air quality over the long-term would be negligible, and there would be no impairment of air quality.

Cumulative Impacts
Construction projects at the park would be scheduled so that they do not overlap to minimize impacts to local air quality. Generators would be banned throughout the campground, and would not affect the air quality of the area.

Effects of Alternative D
As in Alternative C, generator use in the campground would be banned in Alternative D, resulting in a short-term minor beneficial effect on air quality at Seawall Campground. Using heavy equipment during construction would result in a temporary increase in emissions and dust, negligible in a local and regional context. There would be no impairment of air quality.

Cumulative Impacts
The cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative C.

3.3.6 Soundscape

Affected Environment

Director's Order 47: Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management (NPS 2000b) establishes operational policies to protect, maintain, or restore the natural soundscape resource in a condition unimpaired by inappropriate or excessive noise sources. Intrusive sounds may impede the NPS's mission to preserve or restore the natural resources of the park, which includes the natural soundscape, and may adversely affect the visitors' experience of both natural and cultural resources. Noise levels at Seawall Campground are generally consistent with a quiet rural environment, where appreciation of the natural soundscape is important. Recreational vehicles and generator use in Loop C of the campground sometimes disrupt the natural soundscape of campers in nearby campsites who seek a more rustic camping experience. These generators operate at high noise levels, perceived at levels of 70 to 75 decibels approximately 50 feet from their source, approximately equivalent to the amount of noise from a gas lawn mower. Sound levels in a quiet rural area average 25 to 30 decibels at night. The park has received complaints from campers regarding this issue and prohibits generator use between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Environmental Consequences

Methodology

Negligible: The natural environment may be affected but the effects would be at or below the level of detection, or the changes would be so slight they would not be of any measurable or perceptible consequence to wildlife or visitor experience.

Minor: A detectable change would occur to the natural sound environment, although the effects would be small, localized, and of little consequence to wildlife and visitor experience.

Moderate: A change in the natural sound environment would be readily detectable affecting the behavior of wildlife or visitors, in a large area.

Major: A change in the natural sound environment would be obvious, be severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial, and affect the health of wildlife or visitors, or cause a substantial, highly noticeable change in behavior of wildlife or visitors in a local or regional area.

Effects of Alternative A

Generators are a particular annoyance when operated during the night and early morning hours. Under Alternative A, these conditions would continue, and Alternative A would continue to have short-term, minor adverse effects on the noise environment at Seawall Campground. There would be no effect on the soundscape of the picnic area. There would be no impairment to the natural soundscape at either the campground or picnic area.

Cumulative Impacts
This project would not affect the soundscape, and there would be no effects from other projects that would combine with this one to produce cumulative impacts.

Effects of Alternative B
Alternative B would have minor adverse effects on the noise environment at Seawall Campground. The current policies on generator use would continue, and small generators would be permitted within the campground between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. Noise from the generators could disturb neighboring campers. Generator use would not be an issue in the picnic area because generators are not generally used there.

Excavating and using heavy equipment for grading would occur during the construction period of September through June of one year and would result in a temporary increase in noise levels in the area. These levels, however, would return to normal once the project was completed. The campground would be closed during construction, and the impact would be negligible and short-term.

Overall, Alternative B would have a minor adverse short-term impact on the natural soundscape of the campground and picnic area. There would be no impairment to the natural soundscape at either the campground or picnic area.

Cumulative Impacts
A number of construction projects are ongoing and proposed; however, these projects would be timed so as not to overlap. This would minimize cumulative impacts to the natural soundscape.

Effects of Alternative C
Generators would be banned from the campground at all times. This would be a long-term, minor beneficial effect on the noise environment at the campground. The primary source of nighttime noise would be eliminated and daytime conflicts would be avoided. There would be no impact to the picnic area, where generators are not used.

Construction would result in a temporary increase in noise levels at both the campground and picnic area. This would affect the area between September and June of one year. Construction in Loop B would continue throughout the peak season of July and August and would cause a temporary minor adverse effect to campers in other loops of the campground. The elevated noise levels would return to normal once construction was completed. Because the portions of the campground under construction would be closed, the impact would be minor and short-term.

Following the construction period, Alternative C would have a long-term minor beneficial effect on the noise environment at Seawall Campground. The overall long-term impact on the picnic area would be negligible. There would be no impairment to the natural soundscape at either the campground or picnic area.

Cumulative Impacts
A number of construction projects are ongoing and proposed; however, these projects would be timed so as not to overlap. This would minimize cumulative impacts to the natural soundscape.

Effects of Alternative D
Alternative D would have the same effects as Alternative C. Although generators would not be banned in the campground, they would no longer be needed, as electric hookups would be provided. The overall impact of Alternative D on the natural soundscape of the campground would be long-term, beneficial, and minor. The impact to the picnic area would be negligible over the long-term. There would be no impairment to the natural soundscape at either the campground or picnic area.

Cumulative Impacts
A number of construction projects are ongoing and proposed; however, these projects would be timed so as not to overlap. This would minimize cumulative impacts to the natural soundscape.

3.4 Cultural Resources

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Cultural Landscape

In 1996, the NPS's Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation prepared a *Cultural Landscape Report for Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds* (Foulds 1996). The *Cultural Landscape Report* (CLR) states that both Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report further identified historic and non-historic resources at the two campgrounds. As stated in the CLR, Seawall Campground is "clearly an historic property directly associated with the historic landscape design of the National Park Service, 1916-1942…" (Foulds 1996). The design of Seawall Campground and its associated structures are representative of the NPS rustic style, which was developed throughout the park system in the early half of the twentieth century. The NPS rustic style incorporated local materials such as stone and timber in the construction of rugged, frontier-like structures (Meier and Terzis 2001). Specific examples of the rustic style at Seawall Campground include the comfort stations (#102, 103, 104, and 105) and the granite block fireplaces. These resources along with others dating from the campground's 1935-1942 period of significance contribute to the historic significance of Seawall Campground.

The Cultural Landscape Report identifies the following resources as contributing to the significance of the campground:

- the check-in station
- the comfort stations in Loops A, B, and one in C (#102, 103, 104, and 105)
- the pump house and water tower
- the tool shed
- Loops A, B, and C and the individual campsites associated with each of these loops

- the remaining stone fireplaces located at individual campsites
- screening vegetation between campsites

According to the CLR, Loops A, B, and C are all character-defining features of the Seawall Campground. These three loops were constructed during the historic period (1935-1942). Loops A and B were designed as "Auto-Tent" campgrounds, not designed to accommodate RVs. The spatial organization of Loops A, B, and C are largely intact. Loop D, constructed in 1960, is not considered a contributing feature of the historic landscape. The Seawall group camping area (Loop G) was also created in 1960 when a playing field serving the campground was converted to a group camping area. Loop G also does not contribute to the significance of the campground.

The individual campsites have their own spatial identity and can be considered character defining. The layout of the campsites within Loops A, B, and C have changed very little from the historic period. They are made up of a number of sub-features such as vegetation and site furnishings. The spatial definition of the individual campsites was historically delineated with stone boulders as barriers. Removing these barriers has caused a growth in the physical size of campsites. The loss of screening vegetation and deterioration and modernization of site furnishings has resulted in a change in the rustic character of most campsite units. For these reasons, the spatial quality of the individual campsites has deteriorated since this historic period.

Vegetation was used historically to create buffer zones between sites. Loop A is located within a forested area of uneven age and as a result is vegetated with a great quantity and variety of screening vegetation. Campsites within Loops B and C lack clear spatial definition due to the lack of screening vegetation. As a feature, screening vegetation within Loop A may be described as being in moderate condition, while screening vegetation within Loops B and C is in poor condition.

The report further states that Loop D and its associated campsites and comfort stations, the other comfort station in Loop C, the group campsites, and the amphitheater building do not contribute to the significance of the campground because they were constructed after the 1935-1942 period of significance. Although considered noncontributing to the significance of the campground, the report states these additions do not compromise the setting of the campground because they are physical features related to the function of the campground. In addition, the CLR states that the Doliver Cemetery, located adjacent to Loop A, does not contribute to the significance of the campground because it predates the development of Seawall Campground.

Seawall Picnic Area was not included in the *Cultural Landscape Report*. While no formal determination has been made to date, the NPS staff is of the opinion that neither the comfort station nor the individual picnic sites meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. However, the picnic area was constructed in the Mission 66 era and will be evaluated for eligibility under Criterion G of the National Register (gaining significance within the past 50 years) in consultation with the SHPO.

Historic Structures and Buildings

Historic properties in the rustic design style are significant under Criterion A (broad patterns in history) and C (architecture) of the National Register in the areas of architecture, conservation, engineering, landscape architecture, recreation, and transportation. Seawall Campground is eligible for the National Register under both Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the campground is associated with the New Deal programs that provided an infusion of federal funding to develop visitor facilities at Acadia and elsewhere. This resulted in the abundance of CCC labor necessary to construct the campground and other park amenities according to the NPS rustic standards. The campground is a significant example of NPS rustic design constructed during the New Deal. Later additions associated with Mission 66 are likely non-contributing, but are being evaluated for eligibility under Criterion G. Criterion G, however, requires that a resource that is less than 50 years of age be of exceptional importance.

Comfort Stations #102, 103, 104, 105
Constructed between 1937 and 1941, these buildings are of simple rectangular plan with hipped, bellcast roofs. The structures are built on granite ashlar masonry foundations with board and batten walls. All wooden exterior elements are painted dark brown, but were originally finished with stain. The asphalt-shingled roofs contain single shed-roofed dormers with wooden louvered vents, on one or both long sides. The roofs were originally covered with wooden shingles. There is a single plumbing vent pipe on the roof near the center of the building. Entry to the buildings is by means of three doorways – one on each end providing access into the restrooms and one in the center of the long side giving access to a utility room that separates the restrooms. Tall wooden fences, some of which retain the original diamond design cut into edges of the vertical boards, protect the end doorways.

Pump House #59 and Water Tower
These structures were constructed between 1938 and 1939 with funding by the Public Works Administration and labor by the CCC. The small pump house is a single-room, rectangular plan, gable roofed structures set upon a reinforced concrete foundation. The clapboard walls are painted dark brown, and the roof is asphalt-shingled.

The adjacent water tower is a standard water tower of steel construction, supported by six steel legs with diagonal tension rods. A steel ladder provides access to a steel deck walkway around the 15,000-gallon tank. The tank is constructed of riveted steel plates and is topped with a shallow conical steel roof with plain projecting eaves over the walkway.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

Methodology

Historic Structures/Buildings
In order for a structure or building to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it must be associated with an important historic context, i.e. possess significance – the meaning or value ascribed to the structure or building, *and* have integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance, i.e. location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. For purposes of analyzing

potential impacts to historic structures/buildings, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact are defined as follows:

Negligible: Impact(s) is at the lowest levels of detection - barely perceptible and not measurable. For purposes of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Minor: Adverse impact – Impact would not affect the character defining features of a National Register of Historic Places eligible or listed structure or building. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Beneficial effect – Stabilize/ preserve character defining features in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Moderate: Adverse impact – Impact would alter a character defining feature(s) of the structure or building but would not diminish the integrity of the resource to the extent that its National Register eligibility is jeopardized. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Beneficial effect – Rehabilitate a structure or building in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Major: Adverse impact – Impact would alter a character defining feature(s) of the structure or building, diminishing the integrity of the resource to the extent that it is no longer eligible to be listed in the National Register. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *adverse effect*.

Beneficial effect – Restore a structure or building in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Cultural Landscapes

Cultural landscapes are the result of the long interaction between people and the land, the influence of human beliefs and actions over time upon the natural landscape. Shaped through time by historical land-use and management practices, as well as politics and property laws, levels of technology, and economic conditions, cultural landscapes provide a living record of an area's past, a visual chronicle of its history. The dynamic nature of modern human life, however, contributes to the continual reshaping of cultural landscapes; making them a good source of information about specific times and places, but at the same time rendering their long-term preservation a challenge.

In order for a cultural landscape to be listed in the National Register, it must possess significance (the meaning or value ascribed to the landscape) *and* have integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance. The character defining features of a cultural landscape include spatial organization and land patterns; topography; vegetation; circulation patterns; water features; and structures/buildings, site furnishings and objects (see *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* 1996). For purposes of analyzing potential impacts to cultural landscapes, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact are defined as follows:

Negligible: Impact(s) is at the lowest levels of detection - barely perceptible and not measurable. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Minor: Adverse impact – Impact(s) would not affect the character defining patterns and features of a National Register of Historic Places eligible or listed cultural landscape. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Beneficial effect – Preserving character defining patterns and features in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.* For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Moderate: Adverse impact – Impact(s) would alter a character defining pattern(s) or feature(s) of the cultural landscape but would not diminish the integrity of the landscape to the extent that its National Register eligibility is jeopardized. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Beneficial effect – Rehabilitating a landscape or its patterns and features in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Major: Adverse impact – Impact(s) would alter a character defining pattern(s) or feature(s) of the cultural landscape, diminishing the integrity of the landscape to the extent that it is no longer eligible to be listed in the National Register. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *adverse effect*.

Beneficial effect – Restoring a landscape or its patterns and features in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Effects of Alternative A

The No Action Alternative would retain the campground and picnic area in their current conditions. The recommendations set forth in the *Cultural Landscape Report* would not be implemented, with the result being the continued deterioration of historically significant components of the campground, including comfort stations #104 and #105, the water tower, and elements of the campsites such as granite fireplaces. The overall impact could be the eventual loss of these resources. The No Action Alternative would thus not meet the purpose and need of the project, and the impact would be long-term, adverse, and moderate for both historic structures and the cultural landscape. There would be no impairment of historic structures or cultural landscapes.

Cumulative Impacts
Though this alternative would have a long-term moderate adverse effect on cultural resources at the campground, other projects at the park are attempting to rehabilitate or restore historic structures and cultural landscapes. In light of these other projects, the overall cumulative impact to cultural resources would be long-term and beneficial.

Impacts Common to the Action Alternatives

Character-defining features of the campsites in Loops A, B, and C as identified in the *Cultural Landscape Report* would be rehabilitated in a historically sensitive manner by incorporating vegetation between campsites using appropriate native species. In addition, rehabilitating the historic comfort stations in Loops A, B, and C, and the historic fireplaces throughout the campground, would follow the guidelines outlined in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (NPS 1995), and would be conducted in such a way as to preserve the character-defining features of the buildings and structures. The comfort stations would be designed in the rustic design style of the historic areas of the campground, and the fireplaces would be rehabilitated using in-kind materials. The effect of rehabilitating these comfort stations and fireplaces would be a long-term moderate beneficial effect to the historic structures and collectively, a moderate beneficial effect to the overall cultural landscape of the campground.

Two comfort stations (#180 and 181), which were determined in the *Cultural Landscape Report* to be noncontributing to the historic significance of the campground (in Loops C and D), would be demolished and replaced with new comfort station structures that are accessible and designed to be more historically appropriate in appearance and material. The new structures would compliment the rustic design of the historic comfort stations at the campground in appearance and material. Replacing the non-historic comfort stations with historically appropriate structures would have a negligible effect on the cultural landscape of the campground.

Individual campsite rehabilitation would return the campground to the conditions intended in the original campground layout. The CLR identifies the presence of vegetation that screens one campsite from another as a character-defining feature of the campground. The revegetation plan would reestablish vegetation in many locations using appropriate native species between campsites where it has been lost due to heavy campground use. In addition, four campsites that have been added over the years and were

not part of the original historic design would be removed and revegetated. Revegetating areas of the campground to reestablish privacy and the historic appearance of the campground would have a long-term moderate beneficial effect on the landscape of the campground. Similarly, repairing historic fireplaces would have a long-term moderate beneficial effect on the cultural landscape of the campground.

The deteriorated water tower would be repaired, if feasible, or replaced if engineering and safety concerns become too great. The water tower is a contributing element to the campground, and its removal, if necessary, would have a long-term moderate adverse on the resource, but would not affect the National Register eligibility of the campground landscape as a whole. Thorough photo documentation, or other mitigation as recommended by the SHPO, would be completed prior to removing the structure if that were deemed necessary.

Alternatives B and C would have moderate beneficial effects on the cultural resources at Seawall Campground. The impact on the picnic area would be negligible, if the comfort station is determined to be not eligible for listing on the National Register. There would be no impairment of historic structures or cultural landscapes.

Cumulative Impacts
Other projects are being performed to enhance historic structures and cultural landscapes throughout the park. Actions proposed in this project would rehabilitate and improve cultural resources and would have cumulatively beneficial long-term effects on historic structures and cultural landscapes within the park.

Effects of Alternative D

Alternative D would include the impacts listed above as common to the action alternatives. In addition, as electrical hook-ups were not a part of the original campground design, they would not be historically appropriate for the campground. Introducing these units could have a long-term minor adverse impact on the integrity of the campground depending on their design and location. However, there would be no impairment of historic structures or cultural landscapes.

Cumulative Impacts
The cumulative impacts would be the same as those described above.

3.5 Visitor Use and Experience

3.5.1 Affected Environment

The ideal purpose of the Seawall Campground is to provide park visitors with a rustic camping experience where the environment promotes the quiet enjoyment of nature. The campground is available on a “first come-first served” basis, which typically causes visitors seeking accommodation to line up in the morning during the peak season. Seawall Campground is closed from October through May but is used by local residents for walking, biking, and cross-country skiing. Park visitors and local residents use the picnic

area year-round, although the comfort station is closed from October through May. The picnic area provides day-use access to the Atlantic coast.

A 1998 visitor survey (Littlejohn 1999) indicated that approximately 83% of visitors surveyed indicated that the quality of campgrounds at Acadia was good to very good. However, visitors also noted specific complaints during the survey. These included noisy campground neighbors, campsites too small and close together, RV generator noise, restrooms in need of maintenance, lack of amenities at campgrounds, and lack of universal accessibility throughout the park.

Although there are eight comfort stations throughout the campground and one at the picnic area, only four (#102, 103, 178, 179) are accessible to persons with disabilities. Very few campsites and only one picnic site are universally accessible. Further, the older comfort stations (#104, 105, 180, and 181) are deteriorating and in poor repair. Paths to the comfort stations are also not conveniently located from all of the campsites, and over time visitors have created a series of social trails providing direct access between many areas of the campground. Visitors using these trails disrupt the privacy of some campsites by increasing foot traffic around the sites and trampling screening vegetation.

To promote the rustic and quiet surroundings, the NPS has established regulations to minimize noise around the campsites and picnic areas. Some visitors ignore these regulations. Although there is a designated quiet time in the evening and early morning, some campers continue to use generators that disturb the peacefulness of the natural surroundings and are an annoyance to other campers. Campers are allowed to collect dead and down branches for firewood. This has led to a decline in understory vegetation and regeneration throughout the campground, leading to reduced privacy between camp sites.

Campers and picnickers often dispose of dishwashing water containing food scraps at their campsite or picnic site, attracting nuisance wildlife such as raccoons and skunks. This creates a potential human health hazard because these species may become aggressive and bite, and may carry rabies. Nuisance animals may also damage visitors' tents or vehicles when seeking food.

Drainage around some campsites is poor and therefore keeps excessive moisture or standing water around the site, causing muddy camping conditions. Many campsites are not delineated clearly, which leads campers to park in undesignated places and diminishes the quality of the campsite for neighboring and future visitors.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

Methodology

The ability of the visitor to effectively access and safely use the project area was the basis for determining potential impacts of each alternative. The intensities of the impacts are defined as:

Negligible: Impact is at the lowest level of detection – barely perceptible and not measurable.

Minor: Impact is slight but detectable and would affect few people.

Moderate: Impact is readily apparent and would affect many people.

Major: Impact is severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial and would affect most people.

Effects of Alternative A

Without rehabilitation, the visitor experience, natural and cultural resources, and infrastructure would decline, and eventually, the campground could have to be closed to protect public and employee safety. Further, without any changes in management, regulations would continue to be ignored, leading to continued or perhaps even increased evening noise and disposal of dishwashing water at sites leading to nuisance wildlife. The comfort station buildings (#104, 105, 180, and 181) that are structurally deficient would remain in disrepair, and the facilities would not be universally accessible. Overall, the No Action Alternative would have a moderate adverse long-term impact on the quality of visitor experience. The No Action Alternative, however, would not lead to any immediate, short-term construction phase noise or traffic impacts.

Cumulative Impacts
Plans to improve Blackwoods Campground are currently in the planning process. Completing improvements to Blackwoods Campground but not to Seawall Campground could lead visitors to preferentially choose to stay at Blackwoods. Over time, Seawall would have to be closed as facilities degraded, leaving only one of the large NPS campgrounds in operation. This would be an adverse cumulative effect on visitor experience.

Effects of Alternative B

While the project design calls for a small reduction in the overall number of campsites, and would therefore lead to a slight reduction in the number of visitors who could camp at Seawall Campground each season, upgrading and revegetating campsites would improve the camping experience for visitors by providing more privacy between sites. Adding seven new universally accessible campsites at the campground and two universally accessible picnic sites at the picnic area would improve the opportunities for campers with disabilities. Further, rehabilitating the restrooms and upgrading the utilities would have a long-term beneficial effect on the visitor experience at both the campground and picnic area. Overall, improving campground and picnic facilities would have a moderate long-term beneficial effect on visitors by providing accessible, comfortable, and more reliable service.

The ban on firewood collecting would require visitors to bring in firewood or purchase it from local vendors and would be a minor inconvenience for some visitors. Efforts would be made by the NPS to inform visitors of this change in policy prior to their trip using the park's internet site and printed materials. This would allow visitors to plan ahead and supply their wood needs. Some firewood would still be available in the campground as a means of disposing of trees that fall on the campground roads or campsites during the winter.

Campers, particularly in Loops A, D, and G (the group camping area), could continue to expect some noise from generators between the permitted hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.; however, they could also continue to experience some generator noise during the night in the campground despite NPS attempts to enhance enforcement. Compared to the No Action Alternative, increasing enforcement of quiet hours would reduce generator noise in the campground. This would have a minor long-term beneficial effect on the quality of the visitor experience for some campers. Visitors wishing to use generators would be unaffected by this alternative.

Seawall Campground would be temporarily closed during the period of construction, anticipated to run from September 2003 through June 2004. Although the NPS would attempt to inform potential users that Seawall Campground would be closed for part of the year, because reservations are not accepted, there would be park visitors who arrive with the expectation that accommodations would be available during June and September while the campground is being rehabilitated. These visitors would be displaced and would be forced to seek accommodations elsewhere. As Blackwoods Campground and the private campgrounds on Mount Desert Island are not typically full during the shoulder season, it is reasonable to expect that many of those visitors displaced by rehabilitation activities at Seawall could find accommodation at other campgrounds on or near Mount Desert Island. This alternative would have a short-term minor adverse impact on visitors who seek NPS accommodations.

The impact on visitor experiences due to construction noise and traffic would be minimized by distance, as visitors to Acadia would have no access to any part of to the campground during the construction period (September to June). The picnic area would remain open throughout the year, although the comfort station (#182) would be closed from October 2003 through June 2004 during construction. There would be a short-term minor adverse impact on the quality of the visitor experience during this time. Alternative B would result in the least adverse impact to visitor use and experience due to construction closures. Alternative B would provide a long-term moderate improvement in the quality of the visitor experience by improving facilities and accessibility for visitors with disabilities.

Cumulative Impacts
Construction activities at Blackwoods Campground would be temporally separated from this project to minimize impacts to the visitor experience. The Blackwoods Campground project is currently in the planning stage and would be timed so that construction would take place after construction at Seawall Campground was completed. This would be done to maximize the number of available campsites within the park on Mount Desert Island and minimize the short-term negative impacts of construction and campground closures. The impact of improving both campgrounds on visitor experience would be beneficial over the long-term.

Effects of Alternative C

As in Alternative B, improving campsites and facilities throughout the campground would have a moderate long-term beneficial effect on visitor experience. Improving the roads within the campground would have an additional minor long-term beneficial effect to the visitor experience by improving the quality of the roadways within the campground. Adding dishwater disposal stations would also have a

minor beneficial effect on the visitor experience because the stations would reduce the potential for nuisance wildlife.

The ban on firewood collecting in the campground would require that visitors bring firewood, purchase it from local vendors, or collect firewood along other roads in the park. This would result in a minor inconvenience to some visitors. However, some firewood would still be made available in the campground by the NPS as a means of disposing of trees that fall during the winter.

Under Alternative C, generator use in the campground would be banned, leading to a reduction in noise for nearby campers. This ban, however, could lead some RV users to choose to stay at campgrounds outside the park. The restriction on RV widths could also lead some RV users to choose other campgrounds, where they could use their awnings or pull-outs. Tent campers who enjoy the rustic environment would see a long-term moderate beneficial effect from this policy change, but RV users who normally use generators could be displaced, a moderate long-term adverse impact.

Construction would be completed from September through June of one year, resulting in a minor temporary reduction in the number of visitors who could be accommodated in NPS campgrounds during that year. In addition, closing Loop B throughout the peak season (July and August) of that year would reduce the capacity of the campground by 27 campsites and would have a short-term minor adverse impact on visitation to Seawall Campground by forcing some campers to find alternate accommodations. Further, because construction would continue through the peak season in Loop B, the visitor experience for those using campsites in other loops with regards to noise and traffic would have short-term minor adverse impacts. The picnic area would remain open throughout the year, although the comfort station (#182) would be closed during from October through June of one year while construction is completed. Overall, Alternative C would have long-term moderate benefits to visitor experience.

Cumulative Impacts
The cumulative impacts would be the same as in Alternative B.

Effects of Alternative D

As in Alternatives B and C, rehabilitating comfort stations to upgrade facilities and ensure universal accessibility, upgrading utilities, and improving campsites and picnic sites would have a long-term minor beneficial effect on visitor experience within the campground and picnic area. Introducing dishwater disposal stations and showers with hot water would have a long-term moderate beneficial effect on the visitor experience, as campers would be able to take hot showers and clean their cooking and eating utensils with hot and cold running water. This addition would also help to reduce food scraps at campsites and would be expected to reduce nuisance animal problems.

Introducing electric hookups in Loop C of the campground would reduce the level of human-related ambient noise in the campground on busy evenings during the camping season because RV campers would be able to use hookups in place of generators, which would be banned. The impact to the visitor

experience of this would be long-term, minor, and beneficial for tent campers and long-term, moderate, and beneficial for RV users.

Firewood collection would be banned outside of the campground. The impact of this policy on visitors would be negligible, as campers would still be allowed to collect wood within the campground.

The entire campground would be closed for one camping season while construction was completed. This would reduce the overnight camping capacity of Acadia National Park by 213 sites per night, or approximately 80,000 campers over the course of the season. As there is only one other campground within the park on Mount Desert Island, this would be a moderate, though short-term, adverse impact to visitor experience for visitors wishing to camp at a NPS campground during the construction year.

Cumulative Impacts
Construction activities at Blackwoods Campground would be scheduled after the Seawall Campground project to minimize impacts to the visitor experience. The Blackwoods Campground project is currently in the planning stage and would be timed so that construction would take place after construction at Seawall Campground was completed. This would be done to maximize the number of available campsites within the park on Mount Desert Island and minimize the short-term negative impacts of construction and campground closures. Should alternatives at Blackwoods Campground include modernizing the campground as well, the cumulative impact of having both NPS campgrounds completely modernized would be moderately beneficial, especially to RV campers.

The overall impact of improving both campgrounds on visitor experience would be beneficial over the long-term.

3.6 Socioeconomic Environment

3.6.1 Affected Environment

For the most part, the economies of the communities surrounding the park are based on professional services, fishing, boat building, construction, tourist services and sales, and educational research. Visitors to the park have a large fiscal impact on the surrounding communities and, during the summer, there is a noticeable shift in emphasis to visitor-service industries. The influx of seasonal residents increases the population of Mount Desert Island from approximately 10,500 to 37,500 persons. According to statistics available from the local chamber of commerce, visitors to Mount Desert Island spend $60 per night per person, excluding lodging (Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce 2002).

Seawall Campground itself contributes to the economy of the Mount Desert Island region and Acadia National Park through campground fees, by providing employment to nine campground staff, and through the food, services, gasoline, and entertainment purchases of campground visitors. Campground fees within the National Park have been set based on a fee comparability study of fees and services in the private sector and other local or state campground facilities. Seawall Campground fees for 2002 are $14

for the 104 walk-in sites in Loop D, and $20 per night for the 109 sites in Loops A, B, and C. The five group campsites cost $50 per night. Visitors age 62 and over can obtain a Golden Age Passport for a one-time fee of $10.00, and then pay half of the regular rate for a campsite. Visitors at Seawall must pay the park entrance fee in addition to the camping use fees. In 2002, entrance fees were $10 per vehicle (excluding buses). Entrance fees may go up in the future. When full, as it generally is from July 4th to Labor Day, Seawall Campground generates approximately $3,600 per night in park user fees, 80% of which stays at Acadia National Park to be used for resource protection and visitor services.

There are 11 private campgrounds on Mount Desert Island and several camping-related businesses close to Seawall Campground. One of these, a retail store, sells camping supplies such as food and firewood This business relies on campground visitors for a majority of its revenues. Showers are also available to visitors at several private businesses, for a $3 to $5 fee. Privately operated campgrounds on Mount Desert Island offer full electric and utility hook-ups, hot showers, and other services (laundry, swimming pool, playground) that Seawall Campground does not currently provide. This higher level of service enables the private campgrounds to compete effectively for campers and compensate for the attraction of camping within the national park. These campgrounds are typically open from mid May to mid October, and are full during the peak season of July and August. Rates at private campgrounds in the area range from $20 to $26 per night for a tent site without utilities to $30 to $50 per night for an RV site with full utilities.

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

Methodology

The following thresholds were used to evaluate impacts on the socioeconomic environment:

Negligible**:** Impact is at the lowest level of detection – barely perceptible and not measurable.

Minor: Impact is slight but detectable and would affect a small sector of the economy.

Moderate: Impact is readily apparent and would measurably impact a relatively small sector of the socioeconomic environment or would alter the relationship between sectors of the economy.

Major: Impact is severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial and would be readily apparent in the form of positive or negative shifts in the socioeconomic structure. In certain cases, entirely new economic sectors would be created, or established sectors eliminated.

Effects of Alternative A

If the No Action Alternative were selected, there would be no project-related, short-term impacts on the socioeconomic environment of the park or surrounding area. The continued deterioration of the campground could eventually result in closing all or a portion of the campground and picnic area, resulting in loss of park revenues and employment, but an increase in private campground use and

revenues. The effect on socioeconomic environment of the region would be minor and beneficial over the long-term, but the long-term effect on the park would be moderate and adverse.

Cumulative Impacts
Blackwoods Campground improvements, tentatively scheduled for 2004, would have a beneficial effect on the short-term local economy.

Effects of Alternative B

Under Alternative B, Seawall Campground would be closed one spring and fall. Alternative B would have short-term minor adverse impacts on the regional socioeconomic environment; this impact would be less than Alternative D, where the campground would be closed for a full year and Alternative C where Loop B would remain closed throughout the camping season.

Nearby retail businesses could lose shoulder season customers during the construction year if visitors choose not to visit Mount Desert Island when they learn that Seawall Campground is closed, and thus would experience a loss of business revenue during the periods from late May to July 4th and from Labor Day to September 30. This effect would be minor, adverse, and short-term. On the other hand, Alternative B could have a short-term minor beneficial effect on private campgrounds on Mount Desert Island that would reasonably be expected to increase their rates of occupancy during the shoulder seasons due to campers who visit Mount Desert Island and are displaced from Seawall Campground.

There could also be loss of commerce on Mount Desert Island associated with lost visitation during construction if visitors choose not to visit the Island at all when they are displaced from Seawall Campground. The estimated spending by visitors to the Island is $60 per person per day excluding lodging (Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce 2002). Although visitation during the shoulder seasons is lower than during the peak season, the lost commerce (assuming 50 percent campground use during the shoulder seasons) could be as high as $450,000 for the shoulder season.

The loss of approximately half the park's camping capacity during the shoulder season of one year would reduce park revenues from camping. Based on the assumption that the campground is 50 percent occupied during the shoulder seasons, campground revenue could be reduced by approximately 50 percent, or $31,500. This is an adverse short-term impact to the NPS.

Firewood vendors could be expected to increase revenues over the long-term as a result of the ban on firewood collection in the campground. This effect could be less in years when the NPS provides dead and downed wood free of charge to campers at the campground or if visitor choose to collect firewood from another location outside the park.

Alternative B would have minor short-term adverse effects on park employment during the shoulder season. No seasonal rangers or support staff would be required at Seawall during the construction period, and the number of jobs at Acadia National Park would be reduced by nine during the spring and fall. This impact would be minor, short-term, and adverse. One temporary employee would be required to oversee

construction, which would provide construction jobs to private contractors, a negligible short-term beneficial effect to the local economy.

Overall, the impact of construction on the park would be short-term, minor, and adverse. The impact during construction to the local economy would be beneficial and minor. The long-term impact to the park would be beneficial and minor, as would the long-term impact to the region.

Cumulative Impacts
Cumulative short-term minor adverse effects would be reduced by phasing the projects at different times so as not to coincide with one another. Because the two NPS campgrounds are located approximately 15 miles from one another, different local businesses supplying showers and supplies would be affected by these projects. Private campgrounds on Mount Desert Island could not accommodate displaced campers from both Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds, in addition to their normal occupancies. Staggering construction at the two NPS campgrounds would relieve this pressure, while contributing to slightly enhanced, but not overwhelming, rates of visitation to private campgrounds. The local economy would be temporarily boosted by a slight increase in construction employment and workforce spending. The cumulative impact of improving Blackwoods and Seawall campgrounds on socioeconomic resources would be long-term, minor, and beneficial.

Effects of Alternative C

Seawall Campground would be closed for construction for both shoulder seasons of one year (May through June and September through October). In addition, Loop B would remain closed for one summer peak season. Alternative C would have a minor, one-year beneficial effect on private campgrounds on Mount Desert Island that would reasonably be expected to increase their rates of occupancy during the shoulder seasons due to displaced Seawall campers.

As with Alternative B, there could also be a short-term loss of commerce on Mount Desert Island associated with lost visitation if campers are displaced from Seawall Campground and choose not to stay on the Island. Although visitation during the shoulder seasons is lower than during the peak season, the lost commerce to the community (assuming 50 percent campground use during the shoulder seasons) could be as high as $764,000.

The loss of approximately half the park's camping capacity during the shoulder season would reduce park revenues from camping. Based on the assumption that the campground is 50 percent occupied during the shoulder season and Loop B is full throughout the camping season, campground revenue could be reduced by approximately $66,200 during the construction period (September to June of one year). This impact would be adverse, though short-term.

Firewood vendors would be expected to increase revenues as a result of the ban on firewood collection in the campground, although some campers could collect wood from along roadways within the park. Vendor revenues would decrease slightly during periods when the NPS provides more cut wood along roadways, or if visitors choose to collect wood outside the park.

The ban on generators would be expected to reduce RV occupancy of Seawall Campground, because some of these visitors would seek accommodation at private campgrounds that allow generators or provide electric hookups. This would provide a minor long-term beneficial effect on private campgrounds. The restriction on vehicle widths could also reduce RV occupancy of Seawall Campground, because RV owners would not be allowed to extend pull-out slides on both sides of their vehicles. Because many of these RV campers are retirees over age 62 and preferentially use Seawall Campground because of qualifying for reduced fees, the ban on generators and restrictions on pull-outs could result in an economic hardship (paying private campground fees of up to $50 per night rather than $10 at Seawall Campground) and could affect their ability to visit the park or their length of stay, although this is difficult to predict or quantify.

Alternative C would have minor short-term adverse effects on park employment during the construction period. No seasonal rangers or support staff would be required at Seawall during the spring and fall, and thus the number of jobs at Acadia National Park would be reduced by nine during this time. One temporary employee would be required to oversee construction, which would provide construction jobs to private contractors, a negligible short-term effect on the local economy.

Alternative C would have minor short-term adverse impacts on the socioeconomic environment of the park as a result of closing Seawall Campground for the spring and fall and partial closure during the peak season, and minor long-term adverse effects from the ban on generators. The impacts on the economy of the region would be minor and beneficial during and after construction.

Cumulative Impacts
Cumulative effects of this alternative would be the same as Alternative B, with the addition of closing the Seawall Campground's Loop B during peak season. Because private campgrounds in the area are typically full during the peak season, visitors could be displaced or forced to stay further from the park.

Effects of Alternative D

Modernizing Seawall Campground would close the campground for one entire season during construction. There could also be a short-term moderate loss of revenue on Mount Desert Island associated with lost visitation if visitors displaced from Seawall Campground choose not to stay on the Island at all. The lost business (assuming 100 percent campground use during the peak season and 50 percent campground use during the shoulder season) could be as high as $2,638,000.

The loss of approximately half the park's camping capacity for an entire season would reduce park revenues from camping. Based on the assumption that the campground is 100 percent occupied during the peak season and 50 percent occupied during the shoulder seasons, campground revenue could be reduced by approximately $221,600 during the construction period. This would be a short-term adverse impact to the park.

Operators of commercial campgrounds on Mount Desert Island have indicated that they consider the services they provide to be distinct from the camping services available within the park, because the commercial campgrounds provide "full service" camping. This includes electricity, hot water, swimming pools, and retail camping supply stores. These businesses feel that providing electricity at a campground within the park would blur the distinction between the services they offer, which some travelers prefer, and the traditionally more rustic camping experience within the park. There is concern that this could lead to a reduction in the number of visitors who select commercial campgrounds over the campgrounds within the park, and persons who use a Golden Age Passport could preferentially select Seawall Campground because of the reduced fees. Adding electrical hookups, hot water, showers, and dishwashing stations at Seawall Campground could have a long-term moderate adverse impact on private campgrounds.

The degree to which the commercial campgrounds would experience this reduction of business would be expected to vary seasonally. During the peak season, both the private campgrounds and the campgrounds within the park operate at capacity. This indicates that during the time between July 4th and Labor Day there would be no reduction in the use of commercial campgrounds as a result of campground modernization at Seawall. During the shoulder season, however, the presence of electrical power at Seawall Campground would have some potential to draw some visitors to the park who would otherwise stay at private campgrounds. This impact could be long-term and would be a minor benefit to the park, but a moderate adverse impact on private campgrounds.

Providing increased amenities at Seawall Campground (electricity and hot water) would be expected to require the park to increase camping fees, particularly in Loop C, to offset increased operating costs and to be in compliance with federal regulations, which require fees to be comparable to those charged in the private sector. This could result in an economic hardship to some visitors, although this is difficult to predict or quantify.

Alternative D would have short-term minor adverse effects on park employment. No seasonal rangers or support staff would be required at Seawall, and the number of jobs at Acadia National Park would be reduced by nine for one year. One employee would be required to oversee construction, which would provide construction jobs to private contractors, a short-term negligible beneficial effect to the local economy.

Alternative D would have moderate but temporary adverse impacts on the socioeconomic environment of the park as a result of closing Seawall Campground for an entire season, and minor long-term beneficial effects as a result of providing new amenities such as electric hookups and showers.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts would be the same as Alternative B. However, should alternatives for improvements at Blackwoods consider modernization as well, this alternative would have a greater long-term detrimental cumulative impact than other alternatives at Seawall.

4 Consultation & Coordination

4.1 Introduction

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies preparing environmental assessments to consult with stakeholders, including the general public and related agencies, early in the planning process to identify issues and concerns. This chapter documents consultation to date. To ensure the proposed improvements are in compliance with the requirements of regulatory agencies, a list of potentially necessary permits is included in this section, as well.

4.2 Brief History of Planning and Public Involvement

A workshop was held at Acadia National Park on October 16, 2001 to discuss rehabilitating Seawall and Blackwoods Campgrounds with local business owners and other interested parties, specifically to identify issues of concern and to gather suggestions for minimizing impacts associated with the projects. Eleven individuals attended, including owners and representatives of: Seawall Camping Supplies; Maine Campground Owners Association; Hot Showers; Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce; Down East Regional Tourism Board; Spruce Valley Campground; Smuggler's Den Campground; Bass Harbor Campground; Mount Desert Narrows Campground; and Hadley's Point Campground.

Topics discussed at the workshop included modernizing Seawall Campground by adding electric hook-ups and showers; banning generator use; and construction schedule alternatives. Commercial campground operators indicated modernizing the campground would bring the NPS into direct competition with private campgrounds in the area. Traditionally, the NPS campgrounds had offered a more rustic camping experience, distinguishing them from the private sites, which provide water and electric hookups and cater to campers who seek more services.

In general the workshop participants felt that closing the campground during the shoulder seasons (May to end of June, mid-September to end of October) would have the least impacts to their businesses because campgrounds are generally not full during these times, and the private campgrounds could accommodate displaced campers. This would not be possible in the peak season when private campgrounds are typically at capacity. The NPS suggested that one strategy might be to complete any

road and utility work in the off-season, with limited "loop" closures during summer. This is the basis for Alternative C.

The project alternatives presented in this EA were developed in the context of comments received at the October 2001 workshop and refined based on input from park and resource agency staff.

4.3 Interagency Coordination

In developing this EA, the National Park Service has solicited comments from federal, state, and local agencies with interests or jurisdictions in the project area, including:

- Coastal Program, Maine State Planning Office
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- Maine State Historic Preservation Office
- Town of Southwest Harbor
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Please see Appendix A for copies of written correspondence with agencies.

4.4 Compliance

Clean Water Act of 1972

The purpose of the Clean Water Act (CWA) is to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." To achieve this goal, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) has been charged with evaluating federal actions that result in potential degradation of waters of the U.S. and issuing permits for actions consistent with the CWA. A description of the COE's CWA program can be found in 33 CFR 320-330.

The COE (COE, Mahaney, pers comm., April 18, 2002) noted that because proposed work for the Seawall project could impact wetlands, the COE must review the project's eligibility under the Programmatic General Permit for Maine. Plans will be sent to the COE for their review and any necessary permits will be acquired prior to any construction.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA)

Under CZMA section 307(c) and 15 CFR Part 930, sup-part C, federal government actions within the coastal zone must be consistent with state and local regulations. A consistency determination will be made by the Maine Coastal Program based upon information, data, and analysis given in this report and

additional information to be submitted subsequently in support of permit applications (Maine Coastal Program, T. Burrowes, pers comm. July 8, 2002). The NPS believes that the Seawall Campground and Picnic Area rehabilitation project will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Maine Coastal Program. The NPS will acquire all necessary permits to conduct work within the coastal zone. CZMA concurrence would not be effective and no work would begin until all such approvals are obtained.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.)

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires that a federal agency consult with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service on any action that may affect endangered or threatened species or candidate species, or that may result in adverse modification of critical habitat. Consultation (USFWS, R. Joseph, Biologist, Maine Field Office, letter, May 22, 2002) has indicated that the proposed project would not have an adverse effect on federally listed threatened species or species of special concern because there are no known federally listed species in the vicinity of the project location. No further coordination under Section 7 is necessary (see letter in Appendix A).

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470 et seq.)

Compliance requirements for the treatment of cultural resources as outlined in Sections 110 and 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the NPS Programmatic Agreement have been initiated concurrently and independently of this EA. The project is currently under review by the park's cultural resources program manager and the NPS cultural resource regional advisory team. The NPS will submit detailed plans of the preferred alternative for the campground rehabilitation to the SHPO as required by Section 106. Previously unevaluated resources, including the Mission 66 era picnic area and comfort stations (#180, 181, and 182), are being evaluated for eligibility to the National Register under Criterion G (achieving prominence in the last 50 years). If rehabilitating or repairing the water tower is not feasible, mitigating for its removal will be conducted in consultation with the SHPO. As stated in Section 1.6.1 of this document, Section 106 consultation is complete for potential archeological resources, and the SHPO has concurred that the proposed action would have no adverse effect on archeological resources at the site (SHPO, Shettleworth, letter, June 28, 2002). See letter in Appendix A.

Maine Natural Resources Protection Act (38 M.R.S.A. Section 480)

Rehabilitating the utilities for the Seawall Campground could require temporary alterations to wetlands, but would not require authorization under the Maine Natural Resources Protection Act [NRPA (38 M.R.S.A. § 480)], under authority of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) (MDEP, J. Beyer, pers comm., November 7, 2002).

Initial consultation with the MDIFW through their website http://www.state.me.us/ifw/wildlife/endangered/SFList.htm revealed no state listed threatened or endangered species within the boundaries of the site. MDIFW confirmed that no threatened and endangered species or essential or significant habitat occur within the study area (MDIFW, T. Schaeffer, pers comm., April 26, 2002).

Mandatory Shoreline Zoning Act

The Mandatory Shoreline Zoning Act, which is administered at the township level, was enacted in the early 1970's in order to prevent water pollution and damage shorelines and riparian habitat. The ordinance applies to all areas within 250 feet of lakes, ponds, rivers, tidal areas (coastal wetlands) and freshwater wetlands, and within 75 feet from certain streams. This project will require a permit for construction and sediment disturbance from the Town of Southwest Harbor (Town of Southwest Harbor, S. Wilson, letter, July 8, 2002). See letter in Appendix A.

4.5 List of Recipients

This environmental assessment has been placed on formal public review for 30 days and has been distributed to a variety of interested individuals, agencies, and organizations, including those listed under "Consultation & Coordination." This EA is available on the Internet at http://www.nps.gov/acad/management.htm and has been placed in local libraries during the review and comment period.

Federal Agencies and Officials
John Baldacci, U.S. House of Representatives
Jay Clement, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Susan Collins, U.S. Senate
Ted Koffman, Maine House of Representatives
Gordon Russell, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Olympia Snowe, U.S. Senate

State and Local Agencies
James Beyer, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Todd Burrowes, Maine Coastal Program
Michael Chammings, Town of Tremont
Ken Minier, Town of Southwest Harbor
Tom Schaeffer, Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife
Louis Sidell, Maine Floodplain Management Program
Steve Wilson, Town of Southwest Harbor

American Indian Tribes
Brenda Commander, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Barry Dana, Penobscot Nation

Melvin Francis, Passamaquoddy Tribe
Richard Hamilton, Penobscot Nation
Bernard Jerome, Aroostook Band of Micmacs
Robert Newell, Passamaquoddy Tribe
William Phillips, Aroostook Band of Micmacs
Donald Soctomah, Passamaquoddy Tribe
Shari Venno, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

Community Organizations and Consulting Partners
Bob Baker, Hadley's Point Campground
Bar Harbor Campground
Bar Harbor KOA
Earl Brechlin, Mount Desert Islander
Bruce Carlson, Southwest Harbor-Tremont Chamber of Commerce
Cathie Carr, Escapees RV Club
Liz Chapman, Bangor Daily News
Mike Clayton, Bass Harbor Campground
David Dorr, Seawall Camping Supply
Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce
Don Eversmann, Family Motor Coach Association
Island Advantages
Harry Luhrs, Spruce Valley Campground
Carolyn Manson, Maine Campground Owners Association
Risteen Masters, DART
Mount Desert Campground
Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce
Ken Olson, Friends of Acadia
Quietside Campground and Cabins
Dawn R. Raymond, Seawall Camping Supply
Ginny Sczerba, Mount Desert Narrows Campground
Dennis Smith, Hot Showers/Blackwoods
Somes Sound View Campground
White Birches Campground
Clare Wood, Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce
Ben Worcester, Smuggler's Den Campground

Libraries
Bangor City Library
Ellsworth Public Library
Jesup Memorial Library (Bar Harbor)
Northeast Harbor Library
Seal Harbor Library

Somesville Public Library
Southwest Harbor Public Library
Thorndike Library (College of the Atlantic)

Individuals
Barbara S. Arter
Ellen Church
Leroy B. Schultz

The following were sent a press release announcing the availability of this EA:

- Bangor Daily News
- Greg Fish, Bar Harbor Times
- Castine Patriot
- Dobbs Productions
- Downeast Coastal Press
- Ellsworth American
- Ellsworth Weekly
- Maine Coast Reporter
- Maine Publicity Bureau
- Maine Times
- WABI Television Station
- WERU Radio Station
- WKSQ Radio Station
- WLBZ Television Station
- WQCB-FM Radio Station
- WVII-TV
- WWFX Radio Station

References

Acronyms

CCC – Civilian Conservation Corps
CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality
CLR – Cultural Landscape Report
COE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CWA – Clean Water Act
CZMA – Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972

EA – Environmental Assessment
ESA – Endangered Species Act

GMP – General Management Plan

MCP – Maine Coastal Program
MDEP – Maine Department of Environmental Protection
MDIFW – Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife
MSPO – Maine State Planning Office

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
NPS – National Park Service
NRPA – Natural Resources Protection Act

PBR – Permit-by-Rule

RDP – Recreational Demonstration Projects
RV – Recreational Vehicle

SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office

USFWS – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bibliography

Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce. 2002. Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce Web Site. http://www.barharborinfo.com/.

Calhoun, A. J. K., J.E. Cormier; R.B. Owen Jr., A. F. O'Connell Jr., C. T. Roman, R.W. Tiner Jr. 1994. *The Wetlands of Acadia National Park and Vicinity*. Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station Miscellaneous Publication 721.

Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States*. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Biological Services, Washington, D.C.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. June 3, 1991. *Flood Insurance Rate Map and Street Index, Town of Southwest Harbor, Maine*.

Foulds, H. Eliot. 1996. *Cultural Landscape Report for Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds – Acadia National Park*. Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. Boston, Massachusetts.

Gilman, R., C. Chapman, T. Lowell, and H. Borns Jr. 1988. *The Geology of Mount Desert Island: A Visitor's Guide to the Geology of Acadia National Park*. Maine Geological Survey, Augusta, Maine.

Kahl, Steve, David Manski, Mark Flora, and Nick Houtman. 2000. *A Water Resources Management Plan for Acadia National Park*. Prepared for Acadia National Park.

Littlejohn, Margaret. May 1999. *Acadia National Park Visitor Survey Summer 1998*. Visitor Services Project, National Park Service, Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of Idaho.

Meier, Lauren, and Lee Terzis. 2001. *Final Review Draft: Historic Resources of Acadia National Park Multiple Property Listing, Hancock and Knox Counties, Maine.* Brookline, Massachusetts: Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. Prepared for the National Park Service.

National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. 1992. G*eneral Management Plan-Acadia National Park.* Boston, MA.

___. 1995. *Statement for Management Planning Implementation Report - Acadia National Park.* Boston, MA.

___. 1996. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.

___. 1997. *Acadia National Park Strategic Management Plan*. Boston, MA.

___. 1998. *Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management.*

___. 2000a. *Director's Order 42: Accessibility for Park Visitors.*

___. 2000b. *Director's Order 47: Sound Preservation and Noise Management*.

___. 2001a. *Draft Hiking Trails Management Plan and Environmental Assessment.* Boston, MA.

___. 2001b. *Director's Order-12 and Handbook Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making*. Washington, D.C.

___. 2001c. *Management Policies, 2001*. Washington D.C.

___. 2002. Amphibians, Reptiles, and Mammals. Acadia National Park Official Website. Updated September 10, 2002. http://www.nps.gov/acad/animals.htm

Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of the Agriculture. 1999. *Soil Survey, Hancock County*. Bangor, ME.

Nature Conservancy and Environmental Systems Research Institute. November 1994. *Final Draft Standardized National Vegetation Classification System*. Prepared for the U.S. Department of Interior's National Biological Survey and the National Park Service.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division. 1995. *The Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement: Wetland Functions and Values, a Descriptive Approach*.

Vandeman, Michael J. 2002. "Rethinking the Impacts of Recreation" from *Wildlife and Recreationists Coexistence through Management and Research*. Knight, Richard L. and Kevin J. Gutzwiller, eds. Island Press, c.1995. http://www.magicalliance.org/Wildlife%20Issues/Impacts%20of%20Recreation.htm

List of Preparers

This document was prepared by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. and Acadia National Park with design and technical assistance from Goody Clancy and Associates, Inc.

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Jill Cohen, MS	Planner	10 years experience	Document preparation.
Doug Kelleher, BS	Cultural Resource Specialist	10 years experience	Document preparation.
Lisa Standley, Ph.D.	Chief Environmental Scientist	25 years experience	Project management and document preparation.
Nancy Barker, PWS	Environmental Services Manager	18 years experience	Guidance of the NEPA process and project management.
Margaret Beavers, MS	Environmental Scientist	7 years experience	Graphics and GIS analysis.
Kevin McMaster, MS	GIS Specialist	4 years experience	Graphics and GIS analysis.
Christina Shumate, MEM	Environmental Planner	2 years experience	Document preparation.
Tricia Wingard, BS	Environmental Scientist	3 years experience	Guidance of the NEPA process.

Goody Clancy and Associates, Inc.

Jeanne Pelletier	Program Manager

Acadia National Park

Len Bobinchock	Acting Superintendent
Bruce Connery	Wildlife Biologist
Paul Haertel	Former Superintendent
Judy Hazen Connery	Biologist
David Manski	Chief of Resource Management
Boyd McFarland	Ranger
Lee Terzis	Cultural Resource Program Manager
James Vekasi	Chief of Maintenance

National Park Service Boston Support Office

David Clark	Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist

National Park Service Denver Service Center

Greg Cody	Technical Specialist for Cultural Resources
David Kreger	Technical Specialist for Natural Resources
Michael Rees	Natural Resource Specialist
George Tait	Project Manager

Appendix A

Correspondence

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Maine Field Office
1033 South Main Street
Old Town, ME 04468-2023
(207) 827-5938

To: Jill Cohen
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc
PO Box 9151
Watertown, MA 02471-9151

May 22, 2002

Thank you for your letter requesting information or recommendations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This form provides the Service's response pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended (16 U S C. 1531-1543), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S C. 661-667d).

Project Name/Location/County: Seawall Campground / Acadia National Park / Hancock

Date of Receipt of Incoming Letter: May 6, 2002 **Log Number:** 02-220

Based on the information currently available to us, no federally-listed species under the jurisdiction of the Service are known to occur in the project area, with the exception of occasional, transient bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Accordingly, no further action is required under Section 7 of the ESA, unless: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered in this review; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

A list of federally-listed species in Maine is enclosed for your information. Please contact the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Maine Natural Areas Program for an up to date account of state-listed species in the project area.

If you have any questions, please call Ron Joseph at (207) 827-5938.

Ron Joseph 7/01/02
Biologist Date

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

ANGUS S. KING, JR
GOVERNOR

EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR.
DIRECTOR

ROUTE	INT.
SUPT	
DEPUTY	
ADMIN	
INTERP	
PROT	
MAINT	
NAT. RES.	
CULT. RES.	
LAND RES.	
FILE	

June 28, 2002

Paul F. Haertel, Superintendent
Acadia National Park
PO Box 177
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Project: MHPC #1285-02 - Seawall Campground, Acadia National Park
Location: Bar Harbor, ME

Dear Mr. Haertel:

In response to your recent request, I have reviewed the archaeological survey report received June 21, 2002 to initiate consultation on the above referenced project. This project was reviewed pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Based upon the submitted archaeological report, I have concluded that the proposed construction at Seawall Campground will have no adverse effect upon archaeological resources within the area of potential effect.

Please contact Mike Johnson of my staff if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

EGS/mj

PHONE: (207) 287-2132

FAX: (207) 287-2335

July 8, 2002

Jill Cohen
C/O V.H.B.
101 Walnut St.
Watertown, MA 02472

Dear Jill:

This letter is to confirm our conversation on July 8, 2002 regarding the remodeling project at the Seawall Campground. As we discussed you plan for the picnic area are to eliminate one picnic site and re-vegetate the area, then repair and update roads and other sites to allow better access and improved ADA compliance. At the campground you propose to remodel the 2-3 bathrooms and in demolish and rebuild another 4 bath structures to the exact same footprint size to allow for ADA compliance. You also propose repairing and renovating some of the campsites to better allow for disabled persons.

In discussing your project with Dick Martin the Chair of our Planning Board we decided that as the campground is government owned operated and most of your project is of a maintenance nature, that if you get a will obtain permits from us, for the remodeling and the plumbing, that the Planning Board does not need to be involved.

If we can be of any further assistance or answer any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Stephen Wilson
Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Southwest Harbor Maine

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of of land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all out people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

December 2002

United States Department of the Interior-National Park Service